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IN TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST

- The importance of diplomacy lies in quenching fires, not in interminable debates about who started them. Abba Eban reflects on new ways of talking to enemies. Section A.
- Is America ready for Jewish TV? Sue Fishkoff reports on the plans to launch America's first national Jewish cable network. Magazine.
- The Yitzhak Rabin-Shimon Peres rivalry has reached Stockholm as the Nobel Peace Prize judges have to decide who was responsible for the Israel-PLO accords. Steve Rodan reports. Section B.
- Henry Roth wakes up. The 88-year-old author of Call It Sleep talks to Yossi Melman about breaking his 60-year-long writers' block and how only poor health prevented him from moving to Israel. Magazine.



Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu (right) and Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan yesterday discuss the government's Golan Heights withdrawal proposal. (Israel Sun)

Rabin proposes Golan pullback test

ALON PINKAS
and news agencies

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday for the first time outlined to the cabinet a plan for a limited pullback on the Golan Heights. The pullback – to last three years – would test the prospects for peace with Syria.

"Our position is that – in the first stage – there will be a very slight withdrawal, if possible without uprooting a single settlement," the Prime Minister's Office quoted him as telling the cabinet.

Rabin also insisted that the process of withdrawal must be linked to a normalization of relations with Syria.

Ostensibly, Rabin's remarks were intended to elaborate on his statements on Syria in his various pre-Rosh Hashana interviews with the media, but in effect it was an immediate reply to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara's pledge to normalize relations in exchange for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

In an interview with Dutch TV yesterday, however, Shara rejected Rabin's plan, saying the three-year normalization trial period was unacceptable, as was the minor withdrawal.

In a related development, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher has reportedly decided to go ahead with his previously canceled trip to the region. Diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said that while an official announcement from Washington had not reached them as of last night, Christopher is likely to arrive here late next week, and shuttle between Jerusalem and Damascus.

In the special cabinet meeting in Tel Aviv, Rabin outlined a plan to expedite negotiations with Syria. The plan, originally submitted several months ago by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Eiran at Rabin's request, demarcates the Majdal Shams area in the northern Golan as the area most suitable for

initial withdrawal.

After the initial phase is completed, within one year, it will be followed by a second phase, a three-year normalization trial period. After the second phase, Rabin said – according to the statement issued by his office – that negotiations will continue, but a significant withdrawal will only be a part of a comprehensive peace package that would be brought to the people in a referendum.

After the cabinet meeting, Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban quoted Rabin as saying that "only afterwards [the three-year period], will Israel discuss a significant withdrawal from the Golan Heights."

Rabin, his office said, told the cabinet that Israel has "no agreement with the Syrians on the line we would reach at the end of the negotiations. We have no commitment to the Syrians regarding any line of withdrawal."

He then outlined Israel's general conception of negotiations with Syria, emphasizing US involvement as an intermediary.

"We have already told the Americans that Israel:

"1. Accepts the principle of withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and

"2. Israel sees a package deal as a table with four legs, each representing another component:

"A. The depth of the withdrawal.

"B. The period during which the withdrawal would be carried out.

"C. The stages of the withdrawal, and the linkage between them and normalization.

"D. Agreement over security arrangements, which must ensure security under peace circumstances with Syria.

"Our position is a slight withdrawal in the first stage – without the dismantling of a single settlement if possible – a testing period of three years of at least full nor-

malization in relations with Syria, including embassies, and only afterwards to continue with the withdrawal. That is, normalization will stand a full test only after three years have past since the slight withdrawal."

Rabin reiterated the Egyptian-Israeli model and precedent, saying that there was a similar testing period with the Egyptians during the 26 months that followed then president Anwar Sadat's visit.

"Then, we remained at the Ras Muhammed-El Arish line from February 1980 until April 1982. During this period, there was full normalization, including embassies and an open border," Rabin said.

Rabin also outlined what Israel would ask from the US as compensation for implementing such an agreement.

"From the Americans, we will request support in three areas: deterrence, early warning, and material depth of fighting capabilities," Rabin said.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak is believed to have discussed these issues with US defense officials during his recent trip to Washington.

In response to a question from Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur, Rabin said, "We are not prepared to commit ourselves regarding the depth of the withdrawal before the Syrians agree to the number of years over which it will continue."

Ministers, however, said Rabin was vague on whether the extent of the eventual withdrawal might be determined from the beginning – as in the treaty with Egypt – or would remain subject to negotiations after peaceful relations were in place.

But some said the Syrians would not sign any agreement without knowing the ultimate result.

"Without determining from the beginning the final line of withdrawal, the whole process will be impossible," said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

(Related stories, Page 3)

Soldier killed in security zone ambush

DAVID RUDGE

IDF paratrooper Sgt. Oshad Nissim, 30, of Ashdod was killed and another wounded when their patrol was ambushed by Hizbullah gunmen in the central sector of the security zone yesterday.

IDF and South Lebanese Army (SLA) troops were engaged in a firefight, blasting the suspected positions of the attackers.

The shelling, with artillery, tank, mortar and machinegun fire lasted for several hours.

The army spokesman said the IDF troops were on operational duties in the central sector when they came under missile and mortar fire.

As a result of the firing Nissim was killed and another soldier slightly wounded. The injured soldier was treated in the field and later evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Nissim was the 14th IDF soldier to be killed in action in south Lebanon and along the northern border since the beginning of the year.

The spokesman said that the terrorists simultaneously opened fire with mortars from an IDF position and SLA posts in the same area. There were no casualties as a result of those attacks and IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

Lt. Col. Noam, a battalion commander in the area, told reporters that the soldiers had been moving to the Talouna region when it came under heavy Sagger missile fire from long range.

He said the attack on the troops with missiles and mortars, fired from the direction of Majdal Salim village north of the zone, took the

(Continued on Page 2)

Three more held on suspicion of belonging to underground

BILL HUTMAN and HERB KEINON

THE three Jewish residents of Kiryat Arba/Hebron detained yesterday and three others detained previously are apparently connected with a Jewish underground responsible for fatal attacks on Arabs, a security source said yesterday.

The source said the detainees were being interrogated in connection with the brutal December slaying of three Arabs from the village of Tarkumiya, near Hebron. The three were shot dead at close range by the occupants of a passing car.

The three arrested yesterday are Kiryat Arba residents Rabbi Ido Elia, in his mid-20s, and Yves (Aronson) Tibi, 40, and Eliezer Keller, 23, from Hebron.

Elia, referred to by neighbors as a "Torah scholar," was head of a kollel in the Machpela Cave, until it was closed after the Hebron massacre. Since then, he has been heading a kollel in the nearby Avraham Avinu quarter.

Tibi owns a small restaurant in the center of Kiryat Arba, and is well known in the community for driving a car with large Israeli flags on both sides. Keller, who was a member of an elite paratrooper unit, lost an eye in a clash with Palestinians in Ramallah, and lives in Beit Hadassah in Hebron.

The three join Lt. Oren Edri, arrested last Friday and held incommunicado until yesterday, and Yehoyada and Eitan Kahalani, who disappeared on August 26, and whose parents were informed only on September 3 that their sons had been arrested. Neither the Kahalani brothers nor the three arrested

yesterday have been allowed to see their lawyers. The six are also being questioned about the July murder of an Arab taxi driver in Jerusalem. The source noted that the last person seen entering his cab was a bearded man with a kippa.

As in the Tarkumiya case, Khud Abu Snehah, 31, of Silwan, was shot dead at close range by automatic weapons fire, according to police sources.

"The people we arrested all fit the profile we expect of members of an underground," the security source said.

Additional arrests are expected in the coming days, according to security sources.

Security forces yesterday also searched for Hebron resident Ayal Moked at his home, but left after not finding him there, Israel Radio reported.

A close friend of Edri, Keller was detained at about 2 a.m. at the family's home. He has studied at Menucha Rachel Yeshiva in Hebron since being released from his army service because of his injury, his wife said.

The three detained yesterday are expected to be remanded today in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court. The proceedings, however, may be moved to Haifa in an effort to avoid media attention.

Keller's lawyer, Naftali Wertzberger, petitioned the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court against his clients' arrest and the refusal of the security authorities to allow him to see him. A hearing is scheduled for this morning.

(Continued on Page 2)

TASE stages impressive two-day rally

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE TASE rose 6.5% this week in only two days of trading, which would be considered impressive even for an ordinary week.

Trading both Sunday and yesterday was characterized by sharp gains in volume. Turnover yesterday reached NIS 257.15m., a more than 50% increase over the August 21 low of NIS 165.5m. Current figures indicate the market has recovered from the announcement of the capital gains tax which precipitated the latest fall.

The trading day opened with an

excess of demand orders. The Maof index rose by some 3.5% by midday, closing slightly lower at 3.33%. The Two-Sided Index rose 3.06% to close at 198.08 and the Karam Index rose 3.20% to

198.58. Analysts pointed to increased shareholder optimism, based on rises of Israeli shares traded in New York over the holiday and a brighter outlook on the political horizon on both the domestic and international fronts. (Full story, Page 7)

Libya reportedly ready to turn over Abu Nidal to US

DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON

response from Washington.

They added that Abu Nidal, the nom de guerre of Sabri Bana, leader of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, was being held in Libya, possibly in a hospital.

A spokesman for Rowland, who last year admitted intervening with African leaders on behalf of the Mossad, yesterday told The Jerusalem Post that Rowland declined to comment on the reports.

Libya has been the subject of mandatory UN sanctions since April 1992 for refusing to hand

over two of its citizens suspected of complicity in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988.

Gaddafi has denied Libyan citizens were involved in the disaster, which claimed the lives of all 270 people aboard the New York-bound flight, but he agreed to hand the suspects over to "neutral" countries for trial.

Washington, however, has insisted that they be delivered either to Britain or the US.

The sources said the Libyan offer to hand over Abu Nidal, like the Sudanese decision to deliver

(Continued on Page 2)

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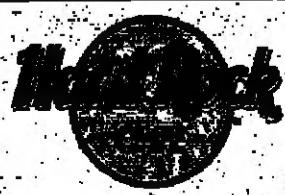
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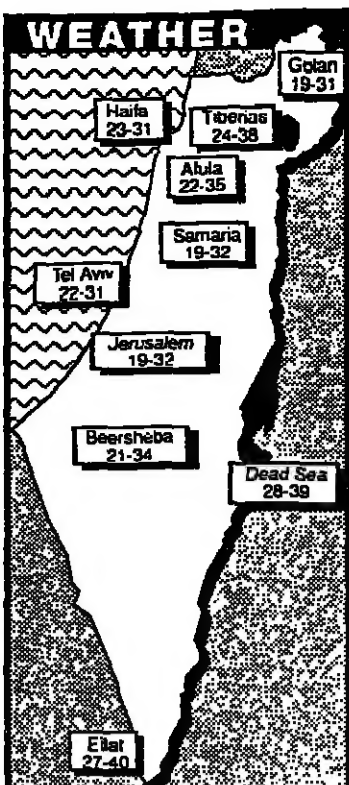
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Jerusalem	5:17	6:30
Tel Aviv	5:26	6:32
Haifa	5:28	6:31
Bnei Brak	5:33	6:30
Elia	5:33	6:30



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear and slightly warmer. Outlook for Shabbat: Hot and dry inland muggy in the coastal plain.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	10	18	cloudy
Berlin	14	20	cloudy
Bombay	26	32	clear
Chicago	11	17	cloudy
London	11	17	cloudy
Los Angeles	17	23	cloudy
Madrid	17	23	cloudy
Moscow	12	18	cloudy
New York	11	17	cloudy
Paris	11	17	cloudy
Rome	11	17	cloudy
Tel Aviv	18	24	cloudy
Tokyo	14	20	cloudy
Vienna	14	20	cloudy

Winning numbers

In last night's Pafis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 599982 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 656520 won a Honda sports car.

Tickets numbered 273951, 271616, 091352, 071640, 339316, 171666, 530110, 565638, 552708, 343708, 148316, 618542, 737234, 735390, 453272, 785272, 049371, 456839, 574444, 157232, 346581, 014915, 217965, 496123, 445374 and 568840 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 64558, 40421, 46789, 63087, 01937, 75117, 61090, 31382, 88791, 61462, 70949, 83136, 26434, 95004 and 95802 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 136, 583, 292, and 023 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 98, 90, 19 and 26 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 28, 44, 22, 61, 88, 13 and 68 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 7 won NIS 7.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, eight of hearts, queen of diamonds, and ten of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 5, 16, 26, 31, 41 and 49, and the additional number was 14.

CORRECTION

The unidentified middle picture on pages 16-17 of The Magazine is of author Haim Be'er.

Arafat visits Hamas stronghold in Gaza

JON IMMANUEL

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visited Gaza's Islamic University yesterday, the first time since arriving from Tunis he has stepped inside the bastion of the Hamas movement.

The visit was a clear attempt to establish political peace and possibly cooperation between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority at a time when Palestinian Police have arrested dozens of Islamic Jihad activists.

Yesterday, five arrested Jihad activists were released, leaving some 40 more in jail for a third day.

Dozens of women relatives marched to the central prison and chanted slogans against the police but were not joined by passersby and left shortly after arriving (see page 3).

Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shikaki, who was expelled from Gaza before the intifada, said in a faxed statement to his followers from Damascus that Arafat was doing the "dirty work" of the Israeli occupiers and described him as the "military governor of Gaza and Jericho."

"The arrest of some 50 holy warriors from the sons of the Islamic Jihad Movement by the new military governor in Gaza and Jericho, Yasser Arafat, is an ugly crime which is part of his continuous crimes against Palestine and its people," the statement said, according to the Associated Press.

During the past four days Hamas has expressed sympathy for the arrested men in a leaflet, but has not publicly attacked Arafat or supported the ambush which killed one soldier and wounded two near the settlement of Morag, south of Khan Yunis.

These are signs that Hamas is seriously considering normalizing its relations with the Palestinian Authority. Apart from receiving Arafat at the Islamic University yesterday, one sign was Arafat's decision two days ago to grant Hamas activist Imad Falojji a license for an Islamic opposition newspaper.

At a seminar at Bir Zeit University on Wednesday, a leading Na-

bul pro-Hamas activist, Jamal Mansour, said that Hamas will establish a political party in Gaza and Jericho. The idea of a political party has been floated before, but now appears to be a serious prospect.

The question being asked is whether the political party will have a different policy from Hamas, the political movement, and will it run alone or as part of a coalition including Islamic Jihad, with which relations have been cool in the past.

Hamas most likely "will run on a platform emphasizing Islamic values which will win votes, but will not talk about Palestinian rights to Jaffa and Haifa, which would lose votes," according to Hebron journalist and writer Khaled Amayreh, who has close ties to the Islamic movement.

The talk of a new party is connected to talk of imminent elections.

Sach Erekat, the PA minister in charge of arranging elections, met with Arafat Wednesday, submit-

NEWSLINE with KENNETH MANN

Mann is a professor of criminal law at Tel Aviv University Law School.

What rights does a suspect have?

Without consideration of extenuating circumstances, a person has a right to see a lawyer immediately. But in security-related offenses, there are special rules. A meeting with an attorney can be delayed for as much as 30 days: 15 days by administrative decision and another 15 days by the decision of a district court. This is used, quite regularly in security-related cases, but I think it's a rare case in which the full period is used.

After 48 hours the suspect has to be brought before a court to extend the arrest. It could therefore occur that the defendant hasn't met his attorney before going into court to make his argument. This is a more serious deprivation of right.

What is this exemption from normal rules meant to achieve?

It is meant to keep the person incommunicado with the outside world during a period when the investigation is very susceptible to obstruction. Lawyers may sometimes be

used unknowingly by clients as a means to pass information.

What about the right to see one's family?

Prisoners have no legislative right to see their families during the interrogation period.

Do the families have a right to be notified?

Yes, definitely. There is a requirement that a family member or close friend be notified immediately upon arrest. But again, there is an exception for security cases. Notification of the family can be delayed for 15 days. But that requires judicial approval from the start.

The special rules for security cases have presumably been used primarily against Arabs. Is there a history of their use against Jews as well?

There haven't been that many security arrests of Jews. It's quite obvious that most of the security arrests apply to Arabs in the occupied territories. But I wouldn't say it's the first time this has been used [against Jews]. There is some precedent for it. For instance, security-related offenses also include cases of espionage.

Evelyn Gordon

Jerusalem issue delays Paris preparatory talks

ELDAO BECK

PARIS

THE preparatory meetings of the consulting group of the donor countries to the Palestinian Authority, scheduled to start yesterday afternoon in Paris, were postponed after the Palestinian team presented a list of eastern Jerusalem development projects to some of the delegations.

The list included projects in public health, education, transportation and water. The Israeli delegation, headed by Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, immediately rejected any discussion of these plans, emphasizing that the issue of Jerusalem is not within the terms of the Declaration of Principles.

The Norwegian chairman of the consulting group proposed a compromise plan according to which he will exchange letters with both sides, declaring that issues that were not treated by the DOP will

not be discussed by the donors. The Israeli delegation approved the text of that plan.

According to Israeli sources in Paris, Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Nabil Shaath, who is heading the Palestinian delegation, seemed ready to accept the text, but was visibly under pressure from "certain elements" within the Palestinian leadership who are looking for political gains.

They were apparently referring to Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's foreign relations department and chairman of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), who arrived in Paris on Tuesday.

Senior Israeli official warned that if PLO chairman Yasser Arafat does not approve the Norwegian compromise, the official meeting of the donor countries will not take place.

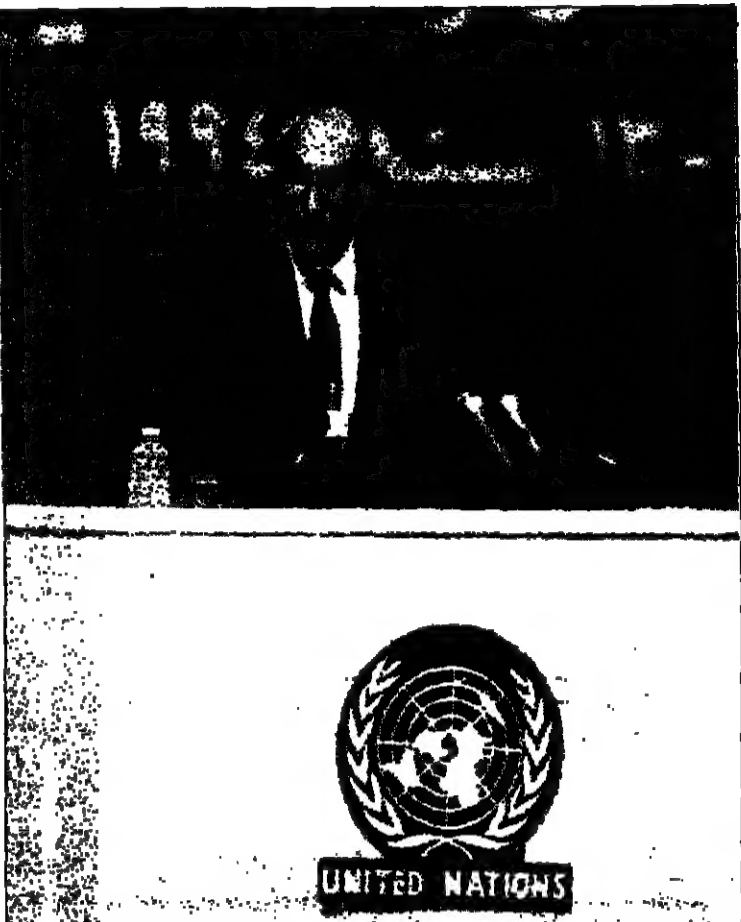
PLO switches delegation chief at World Bank talks

PARIS (Reuters) - The PLO made a last-minute switch in its chief delegate at talks with international aid donors in Paris yesterday, fueling concern among donors about rivalry within the new Palestinian Authority.

The PLO said Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Nabil Shaath was heading the delegation in three days of meetings at the World Bank office here.

The original delegation list given to the World Bank gave the delegation leader as Ahmed Qreia (Abu Alla), managing director of the Palestinian Economic Council for Economic Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), officials said.

Officials said the switch appeared to reflect tension between PECDAR, set up to coordinate aid from donor nations and monitor investment, and the "ministers" appointed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.



Israel's Baruch Levi, chairman of the Public Council for Demography, addresses the UN population conference in Cairo yesterday. (Full story, Page 8) (AP)

SOLDIER

(Continued from Page 1)

soldiers by surprise.

Initial inquiries into the attack showed that the soldiers responded properly and acted in accordance with training exercises, he said. Nevertheless, there were tactical conclusions that would have to be drawn from the incident.

He added the terrorists were highly motivated to carry out oper-

ations during the Jewish holidays, but that the IDF was on the alert.

He said the IDF was responding to the attacks with the necessary means and that varied and widespread actions with the aim of protecting northern settlements were being carried out, while every effort was being made to minimize casualties.

The troops yesterday were part of a mixed armor and infantry patrol operating in the Talousa area. Many Sagger missiles were fired towards the troops and one struck an APC, killing Nissim - the force's paramedic - and wounding the other soldier.

The attackers fired from a distance of around three kilometers, apparently using Majdal Salim village as cover. The distance and the use of residential areas for cover made accurate retaliatory fire almost impossible for fear of causing civilian casualties.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the well-planned and coordinated attack which has become part of the organization's modus operandi in the past few months.

There were no reports of any casualties among the Hizbullah gunmen who apparently quickly packed their equipment and escaped within a short time of launching the attack.

DETAINED

(Continued from Page 1)

The lawyers for the Kahalani brothers, Likud MK David Mea and Yossi Akiva, petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday to allow them to meet with their clients.

A similar petition was filed earlier in the week by Edri's lawyer, Zion Amir. The case was to be heard yesterday, but was dismissed when the state's attorney informed the court that the order barring Edri from meeting his lawyer had expired, and the state would not ask for it to be renewed. Consequently, Amir met with Edri at a lock-up near Haifa yesterday afternoon. According to Amir, Edri is being interrogated under "illegal conditions," including

ing the use of threats, and is being kept in "very difficult living conditions."

Amir filed a petition in the Haifa Magistrate's Court against the continued detention of his client, who has been remanded in custody until September 12. The court is to hear the appeal today.

In Kiryat Arza, meanwhile, most settlement leaders strenuously denied that there is another underground in the making. "The GSS wants to show that it has had some successes here, perhaps in advance of opening the Machpelah Cave, or for some other reason," local council head Zvi Katzover said. "There is no underground here; maybe one or two individuals, but no underground."

ABU NIDAL

(Continued from Page 1)

Illich Ramirez Sanchez (Carlos) to the French authorities last month, is an indication that maverick Arab leaders perceive an advantage in cooperating with Washington.

Reports this week suggest that Syrian President Hafez Assad is now also complying with long-standing US requests to "cleanse" his country of terrorist leaders.

Ahmed Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine-General Command and also implicated in the Lockerbie bombing, was reportedly asked to leave Damascus.

Rowland, 76, last year revealed that he had interceded with Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Bashir at the request of former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and saved two Mossad agents sentenced to death for operating an escape network for Ethiopian Jews.

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Straw poll finds public split over Golan plan

BATSHEVA TSUR

AUDREY Kurash-Cohen of Haifa was bathing her baby Giliad when questioned, by telephone, about her views on the Prime Minister's statement.

"It's very sad to think of leaving the Golan Heights," she said, "but it's our only possibility of achieving peace with Syria. And if we can do that, that will be the most important thing."

Kurash-Cohen, a speech therapist who made aliyah from Miami, Florida five years ago, added: "All of us enjoy going to the Golan and it's very frightening to think of it in Assad's hands, but I still believe it's the only direction Israel can take."

At the Jerusalem Scrabble Club, some three dozen English-speaking players appeared more interested in orthography than in politics.

"It's a pity to spoil our evening thinking about that," said psychologist Nehama Gluck, arranging her Scrabble letters. "I'm totally against withdrawal."

"I'm dead against it. Otherwise it's me who'll be dead," added Etra Margalit, a translator, who like Gluck originated from South Africa. "It's just as wrong to transfer Jews [from the Golan] as it is to transfer Arabs."

"Positive," said Zvi Dagan when asked about Rabin's proposals. His partner at the table, Raya Dovri, shook his hand and added: "I trust Rabin. I hope that what he's doing is good for us."

Canadian-born writer Barry Chamish was kibbitzing alongside another table but readily changed to politics. "I've written a lot about it. It's very obvious," he said. "Rabin is fooling the public. There have been secret, deceptive deals and the people have been sucked in. Just look how many newspapers, like *Hadashot*, have been closed down. The media are being manipulated. So is Rabin. He's not independent. He's under the influence of the Americans and of big businessmen."

Henry Jacobs, a former Londoner who worked as a geodetic draftsman at the JNF before retiring, would like more information.

"It's too early to know. We're not being told enough," he said from behind a pile of dictionaries. "We can't hold on to everything but I want to know what we are keeping!"

"If it's about politics," said Amy Bermon of Minneapolis, "don't quote me. When you get written up in the paper, no matter how brilliant you may be, you end up looking like a doorknob."

"What do I think or what do I feel? I feel very apprehensive," said linguistics professor Eddie Levenston. "Rabin is probably right but there are a tremendous number of unanswered questions. One of these is what are the proper security arrangements Israel can get on the Golan."

Settlement leaders prepare for campaign to save the Golan

DAVID RUDGE

GOLAN Heights settlement leaders were yesterday putting the final touches on plans for an intensive campaign which they said would be "the battle for the Golan."

Details of the campaign, code-named "Oz 94", are being kept secret in case of attempts by police to thwart proposed activities.

The Golan Settlements Committee has collected funds from supporters in Israel and abroad for what it maintained would be an uncompromising but non-violent fight to retain Israeli sovereignty over the region.

Police are closely monitoring events and warned they would not countenance any illegal action on the part of the settlers.

General details of the action campaign are slated to be outlined at a mass meeting of Golan residents in Katrin on Saturday night with the participation of Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani.

"Our action will rock the public and the politicians, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and if he tries to ignore it, the movement will push him out of his position," said Uri Heitner, spokesman for the Golan Settlements Committee.

The settlers committee announced on Wednesday night that it had information from various reliable sources that the government had already agreed in principle to a withdrawal from large tracts of the Golan and the dismantling of 25 settlements in a short space of time.

The committee said the next phase, according to these sources, would involve withdrawal within a three-year period from the remainder of the Golan and the uprooting of seven more settlements, including Katrin and those on Mt. Hermon.

Government spokesmen and ministers flatly denied the reports, saying no agreements, secret or otherwise, had been reached with the Syrians at this stage.

Rabin clarified the situation somewhat when he announced at yesterday's cabinet meeting that Israel had proposed a minimal withdrawal in the first stage, if possible without uprooting any settlements. This would be followed by a three-year interim period to iron out security arrangements, with US involvement, and in conjunction with normalization of ties.

Government officials, including Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, reiterated that a referendum would be held if or when there was a question of any significant withdrawal on or from the Golan.

"It is clear from these comments, although there might be nuances between what he says and the information we have received, that Rabin ultimately intends to bring the Syrians back to the eastern shores of Lake Kinneret within three years," said Heitner.

"Even if we were talking about withdrawal in 100 years, it would still be a case of national irresponsibility. To talk about doing so in three years is a case of abandoning Israel's security interests completely," he said.

The latest announcements by the settlers committee and subsequently by Rabin himself caused new waves of fervent among residents of the Golan, adding to the tension and uncertainty.

"The fact that the present government is continuing to offer concessions to Syria, even before we have seen any signals from the Syrians about their commitment as trustworthiness, is very dangerous," said Maria Van Meter, from Kibbutz Afik on the southern reaches of the Golan.

"We feel frustrated and frightened. At the very least, as the people most directly involved, we deserve to know what is going on," she said.

Van Meter added that there was more support than ever among residents of the Golan for the campaign to keep the region under Israeli sovereignty, and oppose any form of withdrawal.

Heitner said despite the finding of a recent Haifa University opinion poll showing more of the Israeli public generally favored the concept of territories for peace, the vast majority were opposed to withdrawal from the Golan.

Labor divided over Rabin plan

SARAH HONG

THE opposition yesterday sought to end the Knesset recess immediately, while the coalition was seething over news that an agreement with Syria is in the works.

Opposition leaders met in emergency session to consider protest plans, while sharp divisions emerged in Labor. The Labor hawks are now pressing for a private member's bill drawn up by head of the Knesset's Golan caucus MK Avigdor Kahalani.

The bill would demand that a majority of 70 MKs would be needed to change the status of the Golan, and that if withdrawal from the Golan is brought before the public in a referendum, a 65% majority would be necessary for approval.

Kahalani explained that his bill is "primarily intended to make sure that interests vital for the future of Israel and for the maintenance of the country's most basic security interests will not be decided by a very narrow majority."

When such life and death issues are at stake, nothing ought to be left to chance, and the majority needs to be very definite and very clear."

He said his group will be organized into a formal framework to be called Oz (courage) 94. He stressed that he is not threatening

to leave Labor if his position is not adopted, but he will not vote with his party on any issue which involves the Golan, even if it is a confidence vote.

Kahalani is supported by Labor MKs Eli Goldschmidt, Emanuel Zissman, Ya'acov Sheti, Gedalia Gal, Mascha Lubelski, Yoram Lass, and Yosef Vanunu. However, not all of them are sounding the same note.

Thus Goldschmidt said the group "will seek an early meeting with Rabin. We need to examine where things really stand. If the deal considered will really involve no more than a very minimal pull-back in the first phase, without the dismantling of any settlements, and if there is long trial period before any further withdrawals, then perhaps the legislation we are proposing will not be necessary."

But this did not prevent scathing attacks by party doves who predicted that if the Labor hawks embark on their legislative course, they will meet very tough opposition in the party. MK Hagai Merom urged that the party forums be immediately summoned to take up what he termed "this uprising against party principles and the platform."

The opposition leaders who conferred in Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's office, welcomed the Kahalani group's initiative, though doubts were voiced about the group's ultimate resolve.

It was noted that six months ago, this group foiled the adoption of a similar bill sponsored by Uriel Landau of the Likud and Yitzhak Levy of the National Religious Party, when it lost its nerve at the last minute in the face of stiff party pressure. The Likud nevertheless issued a formal statement promising to cooperate with Kahalani.

The opposition's chief move was to collect the 30 signatures needed to call the Knesset into session during its recess.

The Knesset will thus meet on Tuesday, while the opposition leaders urged in a statement that "the recess be ended now and that the Golan issue not be taken off the agenda."

"We will not allow the government to sweep this under the carpet; we will keep after it. The Knesset has no business being on vacation at such a crucial turning point in the nation's life. The Oz agreement was also cooked up when the Knesset was on recess year ago, and then it was presented as a fait accompli."

Rabin out to lure Assad into making peace

COMMENT

ALON PINKAS

OSTENSIBLY, it was the first time Israel publicly outlined a concrete plan on partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights in the context of a peace agreement with Syria.

It was also the first time Israel specified what it will demand from the US in terms of military "compensation" in exchange for withdrawal in the Golan.

But essentially, there was nothing new or revolutionary in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's remarks in yesterday's cabinet meeting. Since his government was formed over two years ago, Rabin has frequently used the deliberately vague formula whereby the depth of withdrawal is equal to the depth of peace.

He based it on intelligence assessments that Syria had made peace a strategic option, maybe even a priority in light of global and regional changes. Even then, Rabin repeatedly asserted, Israel will unequivocally insist on the principle of gradual withdrawal and a comprehensive security arrangements package.

Rabin's proposal of a three-phased plan - a minor withdrawal, three years of normalization of relations put to a test, and then further negotiations over a general peace package that will be subject to a referendum - is only an extension of this "depth" formula.

What triggered Rabin's remarks and determined the timing was less the urge to clarify or elaborate on his Rosh Hashana interview in the media concerning the negotiations with Syria, and more a response to two events: Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara's

pledge to establish full peace, and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's postponement of a planned visit.

As of yesterday evening, Shara rejected the details but did not altogether repudiate the plan, while Christopher decided to go ahead with his visit. This leads one to believe that by outlining the plan, Rabin was luring Assad into making a choice, forcing him to either reject or endorse the plan, or just coercing him into reviving the stalled negotiations.

Rabin may succeed, but he will now have to face the logical equation emanating from the Israeli-Syrian dialogue: full withdrawal in exchange for full peace. He may have maneuvered himself into a situation where he will be compelled to accept or reject the equation if Syria adheres to it and specifies its meaning of "full peace."

That is a big "if" because Syria's negotiating style is obscure. Had Assad wanted to make significant progress, he would have embraced the "full equals full" equation publicly, and agreed to either a summit meeting or establishing an alternative, preferable secret channel of negotiations.

He did not, but by now Assad surely Assad know that time is of the essence, because in 1996 election will be held in both Israel and the US, a most uncomfortable environment for making serious headway in the peace talks.



Women protest in Gaza City yesterday over the arrest of Islamic Jihad activists by the Palestinian Police earlier in the week. (AP)

Islamic Jihad women protest Gaza arrests

ABOUT 80 women relatives of Islamic Jihad activists arrested by the Palestinian Police protested in Gaza City yesterday, blocking a main road and beating policemen with sticks, eyewitnesses said.

The women carried banners urging the Palestinian Authority to free 49 Jihad members arrested

after the group claimed responsibility for killing a soldier last Sunday.

"Let the answer of the struggle to these arrests be to escalate armed action," said one banner, while another read: "We have suffered enough from the occupation. Where is your false democracy?"

Eyewitnesses said the women also used sticks to beat policemen.

"These are the people that got you here," shouted one woman at a policeman, referring to the Jihad detainees who were all active during the intifada.

One young policeman broke down in tears and assured the protesters they would soon be freed.

The women blocked off Omar Mokhtar Street for about 25 minutes, the eyewitnesses said.

The eyewitnesses said a number of Islamic Jihad activists stood near the protesters, ready to intervene with weapons if the police fought the women.

(Reuters)

Four arrested for stealing grenades from IDF base

TWO soldiers and two civilians have been arrested for stealing food and hand grenades from an IDF base on the Golan Heights.

"I could feed all the cops in the station for a month with the amount of food they stole," Golan police chief Dep. Cmdr. Yehuda Cohen said after his men uncovered the theft.

The theft was discovered when a speeding car was stopped at a routine roadblock near Katrin at about 2 a.m. yesterday morning.

A search of the car revealed several sacks of potatoes and numerous cartons of condiments, meats, and vegetables.

Eight hand grenades were found under the car's seat.

Investigators determined that the base cook and a mechanic had cooperated with the two civilians, both from Givat Olga, who were arrested with the stolen goods.

All four will face a remand hearing this morning.

JNF moving fertile layers off disputed Arava areas

AMIR ROZENBLIT

ISRAEL has begun "shaving" fertile layers of land off territory in the Arava which may have to be returned to Jordan.

The fertile layers are being placed over alternative land inside Israel which Arava settlements would receive as part of any such agreement with Jordan.

Security sources in the Arava confirmed that the Jewish National Fund has been using heavy equipment in the region for this purpose.

Jordan is seeking 360 square kilometers, mostly in the Arava, which Israel took over in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The disputed area is along the border from south of the Dead Sea to near Yotvata in the southern Arava. The border was originally pushed to the east for security reasons, since in some places the border was 700 meters away from settlements.

Only later did some of the settlements move their agricultural plots eastward, over the old border. Frequent terrorist incursions also contributed to the move, with settlements like Ein Yahav, Hatzeva and Tzavim gaining an additional amount of security. The Jordanians agreed to the new line, fearing the results of increased terrorism.

Arava residents are divided about just how much Israel must meet Jordanian territorial demands. They say that even if a small amount of land is at stake, meeting the Jordanian demands means losing a significant amount of farmland which provides a living for Ein Yahav, Hatzeva, Idan, Faran, Grofit, Kfar Sdom, Lotan and Faran.

However, it appears that despite the disagreement, Arava settlers will likely back the compromise to achieve peace with Jordan.

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Trial of former ministry director-general for tax evasion to begin on Sunday

RAINE MARCUS

THE trial of former Communications Ministry director-general Ben-Ami Gov for tax evasion opens Sunday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

However, legal sources said the fact that Gov - a retired IDF colonel who later became the managing director of Teledyne Continental (Israel) - was also on the board of directors of the government-owned Beit Shamesh Engines and as such a civil servant when the offenses were committed, had been omitted from the indictment. But a Justice Ministry source said this fact was irrelevant.

Gov was charged last May, but this was not published in the press.

According to the indictment, Gov failed to declare earnings to tax authorities from June 1988 until the end of that year while he was managing-director of Teledyne Continental, a subsidiary of the US company Teledyne Inc.

For the 1988 tax year, Gov declared earnings of NIS 38,732 from his position at the Commu-

nications Ministry plus an additional NIS 15,231 pension received from the IDF, but failed to declare NIS 118,600 from Teledyne USA.

During 1989, he declared earnings of NIS 249,650 and his IDF pension but failed to state additional earnings of NIS 11,549.

The following year he also failed to declare taxable earnings of NIS 15,000 paid by Teledyne USA, according to the indictment.

The undeclared earnings were allegedly bonuses paid by the company and left in the US.

The sources said Gov tried to reach an agreement with authorities to pay a fine.

They said a plea bargain has been reached with the district attorney's office whereby Gov will be sentenced to six months' community service, but a Justice Ministry source said no such agreement has been reached.

Gov, 67, became the manager of Teledyne Continental in 1972 and was initially employed by the company's London branch.

Haberfeld wants more funds

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut's Labor Party faction has been cut off from any supply of funds, which has paralyzed its activities since the Histadrut elections earlier this year.

Faction head Haim Haberfeld yesterday asked Labor Party Secretary-General Nissan Zivili for a budget to finance the current activities of the faction.

The written request indicates that the funds transferred to the Labor faction by the Histadrut's treasurer have been going directly into the Labor Party's account, with the Histadrut faction not receiving even one agora.

The funds are meant to finance the Histadrut factions' activities for the welfare of the workers and their rights, and not to finance the parties' political activities.

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12:30-01:15 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch
01:15-02:15 p.m.	Rabbi S. Nemirov - Laws of the Day	Rabbi M. Farber - Venakheh: The last of the 13 attributes of mercy
02:15-04:15 p.m.	Rabbi A. Friedman - Yom Kippur in the Temple Rabbi J. Zeff - Closing the Gates	Ms E. Friedman - Personalizing your Machzor Rabbi A. Friedman - Yom Kippur in the Temple

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Only the first step

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement that Israel is prepared for "a very slight withdrawal - without the dismantling of a single settlement if possible" on the Golan Heights is a clear sign the government is beginning to ready the public for a much larger move. Rabin himself, in yesterday's cabinet meeting, compared his plan for a small withdrawal, followed by a three-year period during which relations with Syria would be tested, to the agreement with Egypt which eventually led to the evacuation of all of Sinai.

In that agreement, Israel first withdrew to Ras Muhammed and El Arish in return for full normalization of ties with Egypt. After a period of 26 months, from February 1980 to April 1982, Israel withdrew from the whole of Sinai.

In citing the agreement with Egypt as a precedent, there should be no doubt as to where Rabin is heading: a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Such an evacuation runs contrary to the assessment of Chief of General Staff Lt.-General Ehud Barak who stated, in a pre-Rosh Hashana interview with *The Jerusalem Post* and in other forums, that "even in times of peace, the IDF

should remain on the Golan Heights.

Not that there have been any concrete signs from the Syrians that they are truly interested in peace. The remarks made by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara in London, that Syria is interested in a "warm peace" with Israel should be put in the context of his visit to London: an attempt to attract Western investment to Syria and the ending of the British arms embargo against Damascus. The daily violence in south Lebanon - which yesterday cost another young Israeli soldier his life - conducted by the Hizbullah with Damascus's approval, and Syria's continued hosting of radical Palestinian groups opposed to Israel's accord with the PLO hardly show a desire for peaceful, normal relations.

But then, if the Syrians know that Israel is ready and willing to begin negotiations and raise, even at the very beginning of the process, the possibility of removing settlements, there is little incentive for them to change their behavior. Indeed, their initial response yesterday - Shara's rejection of Rabin's proposal - shows they think that by digging in their heels, they can get an even more generous offer from Israel.

Last day in Berlin

THEY came as conquerors, stayed first as avenging police, then as Cold War warriors, and left as friends. "They" were the victorious allies of World War II who crushed Hitler's Nazi death machine, divided Germany into two opposing ideologies and finally handed the reunited state back to the Germans sooner than anyone believed possible, and far sooner than many Europeans believed desirable.

The Russians, stragglers from the recently mighty Soviet empire, left last week. Their departure was low-key, confused, and marked by bitter comments from former Soviet generals. The confusion came from the Soviet role as the bulwark of communist East Germany - a role quietly glossed over by the new Germans, who preferred in departure ceremonies to remember them only as joint destroyers with the British and Americans of Nazi terrorism.

Yesterday the Western allies pulled out of Berlin after 50 years and, for the first time since Hitler's day, the Bundeswehr's army of a united Germany took control of its own capital. It is a measure of the supreme evil of Nazism that even after almost 50 years of German democracy and European integration, the event still resonated with menace for many people - and most especially for Jews.

Germans themselves know it. The moderately staged "Grand Tattoo" climax at the Brandenburg Gate yesterday was nonetheless the first major military ceremony in Berlin since World War II. Democracy or no, the parade of 500 torch-bearing German soldiers in jackboots marching in the square raised many uneasy feelings.

It is a complex philosophical question why this nation in particular continues to be stereotyped as militaristic and prone to excessive discipline and a dark Wagnerian psyche - despite recent evidence to the contrary. The history of Russians' love for dictatorial leaders is no less apparent, yet post-Soviet Russian unity raises none of the uneasiness associated with German unity, the restoration of Berlin, and the departure of allied forces.

Such fears of the reunited Germany have little to do with facts of the country's present status and practices. Yet it is also a fact that perceptions and feelings count in international relations and are often unrelated to facts. This in turn spreads resentment among Germans that no matter what they do, they are treated with suspicion.

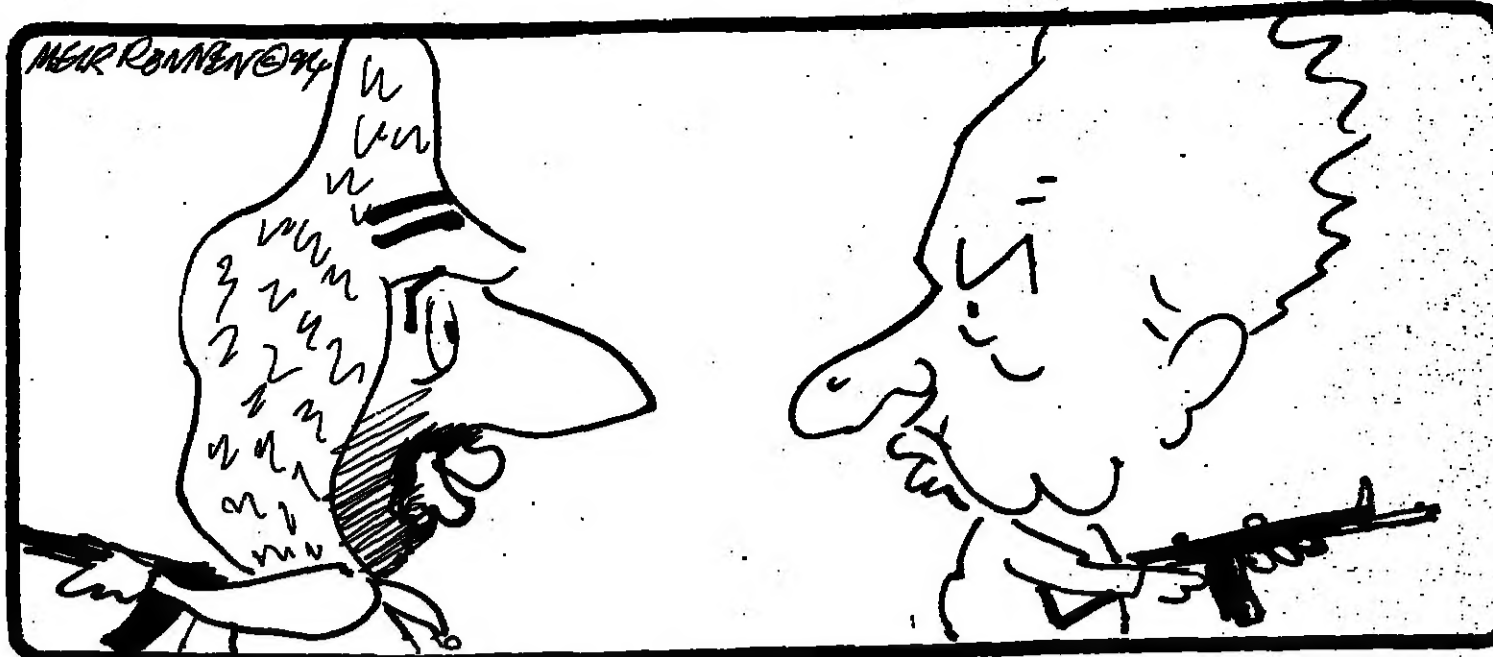
Now that the departure of the allied forces marks the last act of the World War II and Cold War historical periods, Germany, Europe and the world have to live together in the new era. To mark it, Germans might perhaps accept the reservations of the world on their unity with more understanding and good grace. And the rest of the world might perhaps give post-Nazi Germans more credit for what they have achieved.

Germany itself has marked the transition by coming out with a hard-hitting and commendably self-confident proposal to push harder for the union of Europe. The parliamentary leader of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, Wolfgang Schäuble, has proposed that a hard core of five EU countries should move quickly towards closer integration, leaving some doubters and laggards behind for the first leg.

Such a proposal inevitably was interpreted as pushy Germany throwing its weight around. Rather than being cowed, Schäuble said he was delighted and intended to spark a fierce debate. It is worth remembering that it was the then-controversial drive of Germany and France to forge ahead with the Coal and Steel Community immediately after the war that set up the current European Union.

The new German initiative on reawakening the tired European ideal is a commendable indication of its absolute commitment to Europe as a multinational world leader - not a German-dominated one. Because of its size, Germany is bound to be a dominant force, and it is perhaps time for its neighbors to accept that it wants to use that power in a positive way. Although the allies are leaving Germany, the country deserves some credit for indicating it has no intention of leaving them.

'You send your extremists to America and I'll send mine to Argentina...'



New ways of talking to enemies

DIPLOMACY, so often accused of traditionalism, is now being ventilated by fresh winds.

This is the age of "odd couples." Leaders of nations are holding civilized discourse with adversaries they would have puritanically shunned a few years ago. This tendency has produced a thaw in some of the most obdurate international conflicts.

Behind the twin microphones stood De Klerk and Mandela, speeding apartheid on its overdue demise. Hardly had we rubbed our eyes at this spectacle, when Rabin and Arafat, Shimon Peres and Nabil Shaath took their places in a similar ritual, followed by King Hussein and Rabin opening horizons toward a new Middle East.

The Vatican, author of the medieval expulsions, the Inquisition and the humiliating ghetto system, sent its representatives to Jerusalem to mark its reconciliation with Israel, the State of the Jews. A long saga of avoidable suffering and intolerance came to an official end.

Now come the prime ministers of the United Kingdom and Ireland, outlawing the bomb and gun and virtually legitimizing the IRA as a negotiating partner. All this only a few years after Bush and Clinton negotiated with Gorbachev and Yeltsin in their acknowledged capacity as proponents of pacific settlement.

ABBA EBAN

This, alas, is not yet the norm of international conduct, and I am aware of the contrary examples with their tragic toll. But the strange encounters which I have evoked are more than individual episodes. The diplomatic discourse is liberating itself sensa-

lost lives might have been saved. The same is true of those who spurned negotiation with the ANC in South Africa and the IRA in Ireland during the wasted years. The best that can be said today is "Better late than never..."

Together with a change in the

The issue now is quenching fires, not arguing about who kindled them

nationally from entrenched routines.

The common feature is the acknowledgment of negotiation as an unconditional duty, not as an arbitrary option. World opinion has no patience with the rejection of encounter. There is also no tolerance of the idea that rulers have the right to appoint their own representatives - and also those of their adversaries. The IRA, the PLO, the ANC have abrasive chapters in their resumes, but it is more fertile to confer with radicals who represent their constituencies than with amiable "moderates" who do not.

THE CURRENT Israeli leaders deserve their applause, but if they had accepted dialogue with the PLO earlier than they did, many

principles of discourse goes a novel approach to agendas.

Negotiators used to fill their rhetoric with arguments about the origins of conflicts and the culpability for their eruption. In the new diplomacy, the question "who provoked and who responded" is marginalized. The issue is how to quench the fires, not how to hold interminable debate about who kindled them. Pragmatic compromises usurp the pride of place hitherto occupied by reciprocal exchanges of self-righteousness. This liberates the diplomats and leaves ample livelihood for professional historians.

International agencies, in particular, previously allowed the issues of origins and culpability to monopolize their agendas and ex-

haust the disputants. Today, the United Nations has joined, and may even claim to have inspired, the impulse and movement of the modern diplomatic age.

The UN General Assembly has gone so far as to express contrition for its previous anti-Zionist heresy, and its adoption of a joint Israel-PLO resolution, legitimizing the Mideast peace process, would have been even more inconceivable a year ago than any of the more publicized encounters described above.

Diplomacy can only gain in public esteem by shaking off the intrinsically insoluble arguments about virtue and conscience and concentrating more on attainable goals. Reciprocal self-interest is, and should remain, its central theme.

Mankind has never had, and will never have, a single vision of virtue, justice, truth, or legitimate pride. But nations have often been able to unite around themes of converging interests.

Diplomacy should be judged by what it prevents, not only by what it initiates and creates. Much of it is a holding action designed to avoid explosion until the unifying forces of history take humanity into their embrace.

The writer is a former foreign minister and former ambassador to the US and the UN.
(This article also appears today in the Washington Post)

Jerusalem & Belfast: worlds apart

MOSHE ZAK

JERUSALEM will never be Belfast, and it's infuriating to listen to the kind of simplistic analogy people insist on drawing between the two cities. Jerusalem is central to the life of the Jewish people; Belfast's significance to the Irish is something quite different.

It's like the attempted analogy between the agreement in South Africa and the Arab-Israeli Declaration of Principles. There, a white minority ruled a black majority; here, there is a Jewish majority in the entire territory west of the Jordan. By all democratic rules, it is the majority's prerogative to establish its sovereignty.

Those who seek parallels and try to use them to draw political conclusions should note the difference between Britain's approach to the IRA and Israel's to the PLO.

Britain has been steadfast in its determination to hold off on negotiations as long as the IRA refuses to halt violence. The British, moreover, said they wouldn't make do with a mere cease-fire and demanded that the IRA declare a lasting truce.

Israel, in complete contrast, agreed to start talking to the PLO in Oslo before the organization announced the end of the intifada. And it was only after the PLO received Israeli recognition and took the first steps toward achieving its political ambitions that it announced its opposition to violence - without, it should be not-

ed, all Palestinians honoring the cease-fire.

The British have been consistent and energetic in their fight against Sinn Féin terror, even preventing British TV from showing pictures of Gerry Adams, head of its military wing, and radio from broadcasting his voice.

accepted Britain's terms, opening the door to talks.

THOSE WHO claim parallels between the Irish struggle against Britain and the Palestinian war against the Jews should recall the 1921 London Agreement between Lloyd George and the Irish lead-

The two conflicts have little in common. But there's a lesson for Israel on terrorism

Here, long before Oslo, media outlets competed in pursuing Arafat for interviews in which he disseminated lies to our public.

Throughout the years, the British have declared their readiness to discuss border rectifications between Northern Ireland (Ulster) and the Republic of Ireland. Unlike the PLO vis-à-vis Israel, the IRA has never denied Britain's right to exist, nor striven to rule all of the United Kingdom. Even the first agreement in which Britain granted Ireland independence provided for a joint commission to review border demarcations.

But the British adamantly refused to negotiate under the threat of violence. Last week, the IRA

ers, Collins and Griffiths, which didn't end the conflict or bring acts of hostility to an end.

An independent Irish state arose in the southern part of the island, but the Irish refused to agree to partition, setting up the IRA as a military arm to continue the fight. The results were felt not only in Belfast and Londonderry, but reached as far as Westminster, with rockets fired at the very seat of the British government.

This week, Yitzhak Rabin called his congratulations to British Prime Minister John Major on the occasion of the Northern Ireland agreement. While Major will send his Israeli counterpart a polite thank you, he very likely won't

draw his attention to the difference between the Israeli and British agreements. Neither will he remind Rabin of the course of the British-Irish dispute, suggesting that the British learned a historic lesson from the 1921 agreement.

But there is a lesson, and it ought to be spelled out: A cease-fire or declaration of principles is no guarantee of the end of a conflict and a durable settlement, as long as a military organization like Sinn Féin persists in undermining calm and stability.

It's easy enough to substitute Hamas or Islamic Jihad for Sinn Féin, and come to the realization that a declaration of principles or even the announced end of PLO terrorism simply won't do. An authorized body embracing all the Palestinian organizations must take steps to terminate the armed struggle.

The Irish aspiration to extend Eire's borders to include the northern provinces poses no threat to British security. In contrast, continuation of the Palestinians' armed struggle leaves the intifada a gaping wound.

The Palestinians may find it hard to swallow. But they will have to come to terms with the need to erase every clause in the Palestinian Covenant aimed at setting up a Palestinian state on the ruins of Israel.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sir, - I must admit that I have been overwhelmed at the response I have received subsequent to the recent reprinting of my letter entitled "Self-Instruction" in your fine paper. Not only have people previously unknown to me tracked me down from 10 cities throughout the US, but I have also been contacted by concerned individuals from various European countries. Each message was the same - they wanted me to know that I am not alone in my desire to declare the righteousness of the Jewish claim to Judea and Samaria, as well as to Jerusalem. This was and continues to be our heritage, our land, our small refuge against further attempts to annihilate our physical essence from this planet.

I have often told and shown my aughters, by example, that each of us has the responsibility to take a position on issues in our community and in our world - for nothing that appears around us will escape affecting us, sooner or later. Yet, my children also recognize that all actions have consequences, but they are usually not as debilitating as inaction. One of the consequences include isolation and being portrayed as a sol or being labeled as a trouble

maker - a small price to pay for bringing the issue to the forefront, forcing Jews to take a position on this most far-reaching subject.

I have been difficult to convince others in my community of the accuracy of my strong personal sentiments against the trading away of part of our biblical heritage for what I clearly see as mere paper promises of peace with an acknowledged shedder of Jewish blood. Dr. Karni, of Sweden, indicated to me that he had had a similar experience to mine as he related: "Nobody wants to discuss the actual negotiations with the PLO. The subject seems to be holy. No criticism is allowed. The entire Jewish world seems to be mesmerized..." He had written articles concerning the subject in English, German and Swedish, yet no newspaper would publish them.

The people who contacted me succeeded in assuring me that I am not alone. God willing, our numbers will grow and we will become more unified so as to accomplish our goal to stop the fragmentation of our land.

DR. BRUCE M. PORTNOY
Buffalo Grove, Illinois

LEIBOWITZ THE PROPHET

Sir, - It seems that, as soon as the shiva was over, Yosef Goell just could not wait any longer and had to try his best to smash the legend of the late Professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz. In the Post of August 23, he argues that Leibowitz was unsophisticated, even simplistic, and therefore does not deserve to be called a prophet. Does Mr. Goell not realize that exactly the fact that Leibowitz came down from the ivory tower to speak to the people in unambiguous words, for everybody to understand, is what makes him resemble the prophets of old? Does Mr. Goell really think that the biblical prophets were controversial figures speaking in academic jargon, or that they were easily liked by the rulers of their time? Leibowitz's clear and repeated appeal to the conscience of the people not to be oppressors, his daring call to disobey orders which are immoral and lead to idolatry are what made him a prophet.

Leibowitz lived long enough to see at least the beginning of change - and he showed himself big enough to recognize it.

BEATE ZILVERSMIDT
Tel Aviv

YET ANOTHER example of one person's rights taken to insane lengths: because one neighbor complained, a woman who has devoted the last 47 years to turn her barren property into a horticultural heaven has been told by the city to mow down a part of it.

Evelyn Connors, 82, was ordered to destroy a stretch of purple cones, mulein pinks and spiderworts, or the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, would do it and bill her \$100 for the trouble.

City code dictates that weeds and other vegetation be no higher than 12 inches unless they are tended, cultivated gardens.

It seems that somebody has decided Connors violated this rule with a 17-meter area of waist-high flowers that fill a ditch in front of her house. Never mind that some of the world's greatest gardeners

work mightily to cultivate this uncultivated look.

The unpleasant news arrived in the mail just as more than 500 people taking the "Natural Habitat" tour were leaving her house.

A couple of days later, in a spontaneous show of support, a steady stream of cars crawled along her narrow street, where yardless townhouses sit across from Connors's house. Strangers said they go out of their way to see her sprawling garden.

She has a massive soursop tree and two pecan trees blocking a view of her house from the street. The grass is mowed crisply to create islands of wildflowers: blue larkspurs, purple yarrow, chocolate mint, butterflycups, Jacob's ladders. A 33-meter redwood tree and two gingko trees tower behind the house.

Connors disputed the city's findings and plans to ask for a hearing.

A COUPLE of Norwegian tourists pounded on an automatic teller machine in frustration when it took their card and their cash. The result wasn't what they expected.

An alarm triggered by the pounding summoned police to the bank in Gulfport, Mississippi. They arrived just as two burglars tried to make their getaway by crashing through a bank window.

ONLY IN Jerusalem Dept.: A few days before Rosh Hashana I was listening to the soundtrack from *Les Misérables*. As it hit a crashing crescendo, I was amazed to note a previously undetected instrument in this music I've heard countless times.

The curiosity was solved when the music came to a rapturous halt, and the mystery instrument identified itself: my neighbor was

practising his shofar-blowing, on exactly the same note as the song from *Les Miz*.

A MOB in Miami killed a motorist after he hit a girl with his car and stopped to check on her.

Charles Bell, 44, slammed on his brakes to try to avoid the girl when she darted onto the street. But the car hit the girl and sent her flying.

The girl was not seriously injured. When Bell got out of his car to check on her, the girl got up, but the mob attacked him anyway and killed him.

A witness said a band of men was heading to a fight, and the girl was running behind them to watch when she darted in front of Bell's car.

Police said race does not appear to be a factor in the killing; the victim and the attackers were black.

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A bit of cool accounting

YOSEF GOELL

THE process begun a year ago with the breakthrough that led to grudging recognition between Israel and the PLO is still far from over. It would be foolhardy to attempt any objective assessment of its future.

But the experience of the past year does make it possible to pinhole some of the hopes and expectations into categories of certain, possible, or clearly impossible.

Let's begin with the best news. The mere featuring of the breakthrough between Israel and the PLO in the world media and the beginning of the process in which the IDF gets off the backs of most Palestinians in the territories has already done wonders for Israel's international standing.

China, India and a slew of Third World countries have overcome the final taboos against open relations with Israel. Some Moslem and Arab countries are following in their wake, albeit more gingerly. The Arab economic boycott of Israel, while still officially in force, is feeble and more marginal than ever before.

More important, Israel's relations with the US are stronger than ever before. And our ties with the European Union and some of its leading members, whose policy has for years been marked by a clear pro-PLO bias, have improved considerably.

The importance of these developments shouldn't be underrated; but neither should they be exaggerated.

One of the major arguments in support of Israeli concessions said they were essential for building bridges to supposedly moderate secular forces in the Arab world. These bridges would force an alliance with those forces against the threat of Moslem fundamentalism in Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, among the Palestinians and elsewhere.

The experience of the past year indicates otherwise. The possibility that moderate Arabs will ally themselves with the "devil Israel" against their fundamentalist Moslem brethren looks like so much pie in the sky. (During the Gulf war, the so-called moderate Arab states, who were being mortally threatened by Saddam Hussein, insisted on the exclusion of a similarly threatened Israel from an American-led alliance.)

Many Arabs can be expected to do business with Israel, to our mutual advantage. But it is apparently too much to ask that they also prefer an alliance with Israel against any other Moslem state.

Much more depressing is the evidence piling up regarding the nature of our future relationship with the Palestinians.

The Palestinians have never been strong enough to constitute a real threat to Israel's existence; thus, they have no "peace" to offer Israel. But in regard to the lesser threat of terrorism against Israelis and Jews abroad, it is important to be able to identify what

can realistically be expected.

The evidence here is that the Oslo Agreement and the process it began belong to the "cold peace" category such as we have had with Egypt for the past 15 years. This is a formal "peace" between the political elites of the two sides rather than any profound change of heart and a ramified peace between two erstwhile enemy peoples.

A recent article in *Ha'aretz*

A look at the past year should stop Israelis being starry-eyed about the peace they can expect with the Palestinians

(August 8) by Prof. Emanuel Sivan, a leading dove among Israel's Arab specialists, is instructive. He reports on a survey conducted by Dr. Muelen Heidar of Egypt's Ein Shams University which examined attitudes to "the future of the Arab Homeland" of 270 Egyptian graduate students over the 1990-92 academic years.

Attitudes to Israel were extreme. Typical statements: Israel is "a dagger plunged into the heart (or back) of the Arabs" and "the spoiled brat of the US."

ISRAEL'S FUNCTION in the eyes of its American masters, according to these students, was to undermine their collective security and sunder their geographical continuity by establishing domination over "the Promised Land, from the Nile to the Euphrates."

Similar hostility was aimed at the US, which was accused of conducting a spiritual-cultural campaign against the Arab world by propagating concepts alien to the Arabs' basic nature.

None of this should come as a surprise to anyone who has visited Egypt in the past 15 years and taken his life in his hands by trying to enter any of the university campuses. Nor should it surprise those who are aware that nearly every Egyptian professional organization continues to boycott Israel, expressing extreme hostility to it and that US military food aid has literally kept millions of Egyptians from dying of starvation.

Prof. Sivan notes, correctly, that these "secondary elites" aren't the ones who rule Egypt. The danger, he adds, is that "in the long run, there may well be a turnover in the ruling elites; part of today's young, educated, Egyptian

class, hostile to Israel, will staff the ministers' offices and the editorial boards, from where they will be able to change the main thrust of foreign policy or undermine the public consensus."

Concludes Prof. Sivan: "He who fails to strengthen the foundations of peace today runs the risk of their cracking tomorrow."

Well spoken. But can anyone really accuse Israel of failing to "strengthen the foundations of peace"? Perhaps one should look to President Mubarak, whose regime has consistently opposed implementing any aspect of the normalization agreements between our two countries, and who still refuses to visit Israel, something which should have been perfectly normal practice by now?

All the evidence of the past year points to the fact that we'll be lucky if our relations with any Palestinian entity turn out as warm as our relations with our Egyptian "peace partner." In the best case, we will have a peace between elites.

This is still better than war or a continued intifada, with its unavoidable suppression; but it is still a far cry from the sort of peace many of us hoped for, and many still think we will be getting.

Evidence also indicates that we should disabuse ourselves of two basic assumptions underlying the agreement with the PLO: that after the IDF and the security services get out of the territories, the PLO and its police and secret services will fight continuing anti-Israel terrorism by rejectionist Palestinian groups even more ferociously - and effectively - than Israel did.

Arafat has told us as clearly as he could during the past few weeks - both in words, and through acts of omission and commission - that he has no such intention, either in Gaza and Jericho, or in the other West Bank "empowerment" areas.

It has also been argued that Israel and the PLO have a shared interest in bringing about massive and speedy economic growth in the Palestinian territories, so that the Palestinian masses will be diverted from continued hostility and terrorism against Israel.

It sounds reasonable. But no one knows how to bring about such rapid economic growth anywhere in the world, not even in Israel; and certainly not among the Palestinians, whose society and culture is as class-biased and corrupt as any in the Arab world.

We shall have to make do with negotiating - not for a millennium, but for incremental improvements over what prevailed previously, with neighbors who will remain undemocratic, corrupt and sporadically prone to violence. That's the neighborhood we live in.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on public affairs.

IMPOSSIBLE

BY SHARON

Who are the dreamers now...?

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

'BE realistic! Demand the impossible!" This slogan from the 1968 student revolt in France has relevance to basic changes in Israel today.

Only two short years ago, the inclusion of a conference hall earmarked for concluding peace agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbors in Beit Gavriel, Gita Sherover's cultural and social center at the southern tip of the Kinneret, seemed like a joke. At best, it was regarded as a pardonable aberration by the elderly philanthropist.

Who had the last laugh? Recently, the lavishly appointed room, with striking views of the Sea of Galilee from every direction, was the venue for the pilot session of the Israel-Jordan Boundary Committee. Next week, the full delegations are to meet there, for what appears to be the commencement of a full-fledged peace conference.

The major realistic problem, other than the distraction provided by the magnificent scenic vistas, is the lack of space for the meetings of the various committees, and additional space has been commandeered in the adjacent Jordan Valley Regional College. With peace no longer in the realm of the impossible, Gita Sherover has proven to be the realist.

Another realist is Minister of Education, Amnon Rubinstein. But his creative, imaginative proposal to challenge the appalling record of failure in the English-language matriculation examinations is still consigned to the domain of the impossible.

blocking the way to higher education and upward social mobility.

Rubinstein reminded the members of the Academy for the Hebrew Language, who demanded that he shelve the experiment, that many young people in Israel don't have the educational advantage of spending time abroad and learning English while their parents are on sabbatical.

But nothing engages the loyalties of a herd of independent minds more than a once-revolutionary ideal that has become a fetishistic slogan, linked to a conservative interest. Even Rubinstein's barbed reminder of the gap between the children of the academy's distinguished members and those who make up the bulk of the 30 percent failure rate left his audience unmoved.

THE HEBREW renaissance re-

mains a great ideal, as it was in Zionism's formative era. It was a major objective of the newly founded Teachers' Union, at the turn of the century, before wages and conditions of employment became paramount. The language riots associated with the opening of

ing political scene. If the main Histadrut economic enterprise are indeed sold off, as Haim Rimon, the new Histadrut secretary general, urges, the labor camp will have lost not only economic and political assets that have sustained it since its inception, but also its spiritual and intellectual moorings. Even today, the existence of a worker-owned economy is no longer an article of faith in labor politics.

In the religious camp, the National Religious Party no longer controls the Chief Rabbinate. The present chief rabbi, unlike his predecessor, has no part in putting together the party's Knesset list. The days when the chief rabbi set the terms for religious adherence to a government coalition are over. Party leaders seek political advice elsewhere.

The Chief Rabbinate was the center of political gravity of the Zionist minority in the religious camp in the Mandatory period and beyond. Its creation was opposed by the haredi community, led by Agudat Yisrael, which insisted on the independent status of its rabbinical institutions. Shorn of its political reason for being, is the existence of a Chief Rabbinate still an article of faith in national religious politics?

Let's be realistic: In core area of Israel's political landscape, the impossible has already happened. Perhaps one day a new realism will even penetrate the Academy for the Hebrew Language.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1994

Decision delayed on anti-inflation plan

THE cabinet yesterday again put off its decision on the Treasury's and Bank of Israel's joint anti-inflation package to its Sunday meeting, but approved Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's proposal to create an emergency ministerial committee to solve the housing crisis.

Rabin will head the committee, which will include the finance, housing, justice, and environment ministers. The committee's main task will be to oversee the implementation of government decisions to significantly expand the supply of available housing.

To that end, the committee will be able to direct ministries and ministry representatives on local and regional planning boards and coordinate their activities to improve the efficiency of the procedures related to housing.

The committee will establish an interministerial working group that will coordinate among ministries and other public bodies in the areas of planning, land sales, and infrastructure development. The working group will oversee the issuing of tenders for land that will

include strict requirements for beginning and ending construction, and will provide bonuses for early completion and impose fines for failure to meet the deadlines.

Since 1992, when the government's construction program provided nearly half of all new housing, the market has been unable to come close to the requirement to produce 50,000 housing units a year, according to a cabinet document. In 1992, 44,900 units were built, with the government contributing 21,820 units and the private sector, the remaining 23,080. As the government's housing program wound down last year, providing 4,760 new units, total construction totaled 33,630 units, with the private sector building 28,870 units. During the first half of the year, 14,100 new units have been built, far short of half of the year's goal of 30,000.

The creation of Rabin's committee actually provides a vehicle for implementing the housing proposals included in the anti-inflation program. Through this committee, the government will attempt to overcome the obstacles which

JOSE ROSENFELD

have stood in the way of several of its plans to increase the supply of housing this year. Both the Treasury and the Bank of Israel blame this year's inflationary outburst on spiraling housing prices.

Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ora Namir said she would vote against the anti-inflation package because it hits the economically weak. Namir opposes the policy of sharply raising interest rates, as the Bank of Israel recently did when it pushed them up by 1.5 percentage points. She says the main victims of higher interest rates are factories whose debts will balloon and which will find it hard to invest in their productive capacity. Moreover, it will hurt wage-earners who carry mortgages and overdrafts.

Out of two million wage-earners, 32 percent do not make more than the minimum wage and about 72 percent earn up to the mean wage of NIS 3,900 a month, said Namir.

She noted that inflation was consumption-based this year and

not the result of high wages. The source of the untrammelled consumption growth is increased profits and not wages, whose rise was minimal. The government's steps to lower production costs, including lower employer and company taxes, have failed to arrest inflation, she said.

Namir warned her colleagues: "As a political person, I am very worried. We are now at a time when the Likud is unable to challenge the prime minister on issues of peace and security, however on the social and economic issues we have and will have a problem."

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish called on his colleagues to reject the anti-inflation plan for failing to solve the real causes of inflation, such as high housing and government-controlled prices, and because it includes proposals that will lead to a recession and high unemployment.

Harish took special exception at the proposed inflation goal ranging from 8% to 11% saying that such an unclear goal can lead the Bank of Israel to raise interest

rates based on an inflation rate of 14%, while the exchange rate policy will be conducted based on 8% inflation. This situation is liable to harm exports by eroding their competitiveness and thereby hurt the country's export-led expansion.

Harish also attacked the Treasury's proposal to adopt foreign product standards as a means to eliminate non-tariff barriers to trade, for not requiring the country's trading partners to mutually accept local product standards. The one-sided acceptance of foreign standards, Harish claimed, means endangering citizens' safety, health, environment, and consumer interests. He noted that there is no connection between the issue of product standards and inflation and accused the Treasury of trying to mislead the cabinet and the people by tying the two together.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat will respond to his colleagues' criticism on Sunday, before the cabinet votes on the anti-inflation plan.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank Adanim sells NIS 12 million mortgage portfolio to Tamar Bank Adanim Mortgage and Loan, a subsidiary of the Investment Corp. of United Mizrahi Bank, has sold a NIS 12 million mortgage portfolio to Tamar Bank Discount's provident fund.

Haim Freilichman, general manager of the bank, said the sale is in the framework of Adanim's rapid development plans. Earlier this year, the bank sold a NIS 30m. mortgage portfolio to Gmulo, Bank Hapoalim's investment company.

Freilichman said he expects other mortgage banks to adapt Adanim's sale of loan portfolios as a method of raising capital and increasing the amount of credit granted to the public. In the first half of 1994, Adanim's credit to the public increased about 60 percent, the highest rise in the banking system.

Stoessel asks TASE board members not to buy Maof 25 options: TASE board chairman Haim Stoessel has asked fellow board members not to purchase Maof 25 options. The Securities Law forbids TASE board members from buying shares except for Maof 25 or dollar-linked options.

The TASE has asked the chairman of the Securities Authority to redraft limitations within the framework of the Securities Law. "Until the matter is settled by law, declared board members will not invest in these financial mechanisms," Stoessel said.

Hapoalim Investments sells 65% of its holdings in DSP Group: Hapoalim Investments has sold 65 percent of its holdings in DSP Group for NIS 8.5m. on the New York Stock Exchange. Prior to the sale, Hapoalim held 2.6% of DSP's outstanding shares.

La Nacional share draws overwhelming response: An unusual share registered unusual rates of demand yesterday. Insurance firm La Nacional floated a preference share, in which participating preferred shares promise a dividend of 1% above inflation and grant rights on both guaranteed and normal dividends.

"Apart from Zur-Shamir a few months ago, no other Israeli company has issued this type of share," said La Nacional's Dr. Moshe Peres, in describing the overwhelming response to the issue - excess underwriting of NIS 54m. The sum is triple La Nacional's intended goal of NIS 18 million.

Orders placed numbered 1,932, out of which 1,023 were accepted, raising NIS 20m., some 12 percent higher than the company's stated goal.

WORLD BRIEFS

US businesses investment forecast indicates 8.8% rise: US businesses plan to increase investments in new building and equipment by 8.8 percent this year - a more optimistic projection than three months ago, the government said yesterday.

The Commerce Department reported that some 5,000 businesses surveyed in July and August said they would spend \$638 billion this year - up from \$587b. last year - on constructing and modernizing buildings, installing new computers and upgrading other equipment and machinery.

Kmart to close 110 stores, cut more than 6,000 jobs: Kmart Corp., as part of its plan to turn around its core discount retailing unit, yesterday announced plans to close 110 stores and cut its management work force by 10 percent over the next 18 to 24 months, with the loss of more than 6,000 jobs.

The discount retailer said the plan would hit stores that have not met the company's sales, profit and return on investment requirements. The store closures will result in the loss of 650 management positions, the company said.

Housing sales flat during 2nd quarter

JOSE ROSENFELD

HOUSING sales in the country's 24 largest cities were flat in the second quarter of the year, totaling 3,720 units, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The supply of unsold new housing units fell 9.6 percent to 5,429 in the second quarter as the number of units for sale dropped by 5.9% to 9,148.

Despite the government's program to increase the supply of available housing, the number of units for sale have fallen nearly 8% since the end of last year, when available units peaked at 9,902.

Sales in the second quarter fell in Ashdod, Beersheva, Bat Yam, Hadera, Netanya, Kiryat Bialik, Kiryat Yam, Kiryat Motzkin, Kiryat Ata and Rishon LeZion.

By contrast, sales picked up in Jerusalem, Givatayim, Holon, Haifa, Petah Tikva, Rehovot, Ramat Gan, Ra'anana and Tel Aviv.

Sales were unchanged in Kfar Saba, Ashkelon, Bnei Brak, Herzliya and Ramat Hasharon.

Sales of apartments of most sizes fell, except for one-, two-, and five-room apartments. Out of the 5,430 unsold units at the end of June, 81% were in the early stages of construction.

The bureau also reported that 40% of the unsold stock consisted of apartments of five rooms or more.

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MALIN

Brodet to replace Fogel at end of year

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Ministry Director-General Aharon Fogel will leave his post at the end of the year and will be replaced by Budget Director David Brodet, the Treasury announced yesterday.

Fogel, who agreed to take the job for two years, acceded to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's request that he remain for an additional six months until the Knesset adopts the 1995 budget.

In August, 1992 Fogel began serving as director-general, after leaving his job as chairman of the board of Leumi and Co., the Leumi group's investment bank.

Since that time, Fogel has headed several committees which proposed major reforms, including rescuing the country's pension sys-

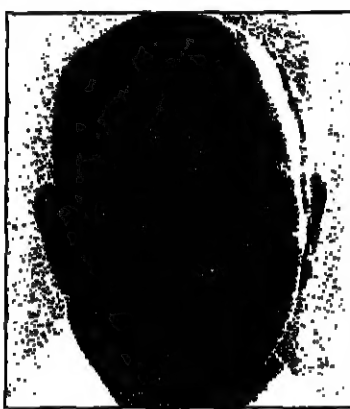
tem, rezoning agricultural land into urban property, redirecting government investment grants to development towns as direct investment in the towns' infrastructure and the blueprint for the economic relationship between Israel and the Palestinian autonomous areas.

Fogel is expected to work in the private sector, although he has not yet made his plans public.

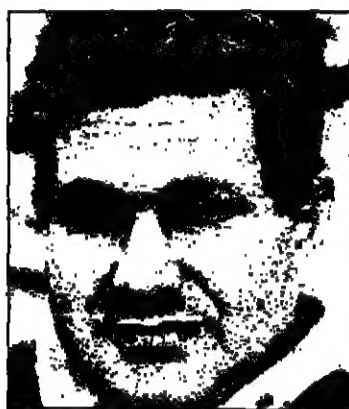
Shohat chose Brodet to replace Fogel in order to avoid rocking the boat in mid-term, sources said. Brodet has Shohat's confidence, and as his deputy at the Paris economic talks with the Palestinians, was the Israeli delegation's acting head.

Shohat also values Brodet's experience as deputy finance director at Israel Aircraft Industries in dealing with the costly recovery program for the defense industry, which the government is currently bankrupting.

In addition, Shohat values Brodet's experience as the Industry and Trade Ministry's director of



Aharon Fogel has agreed to stay past his two-year term. (Boris Smutanko)



David Brodet has Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's confidence. (Aliza Auerbach)

prices during the 1985 economic stabilization program, as he embarks in the latest joint with inflation.

Ran Krol, who was previously director-general of the Energy Ministry, will take over as budget director at the Treasury.

Bank Leumi workers demand involvement in sale process

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi's workers committee has demanded the government involve it in negotiations for the bank's sale as part of their struggle to maintain working conditions after ownership changes hands.

Committee chairman Louis Rot yesterday asked Gil Leidner, general manager of MI Holdings, the government-owned company in charge of the bank sale process, involve the workers in negotiations on wages, pensions, and work hours.

"We are looking after our future interests," Rot said. "We want to reach an agreement regarding future wages and rights before the bank is sold."

"We have no intention of taking part in the financial aspect of the

negotiations," he said. "The government can take care of it. We merely want to be involved in talks related to our future. We don't believe the government or MI Holdings is capable of protecting our interests."

In response, Leidner said MI Holdings has not reached the negotiating stage with Edmond Saffra, Bank Leumi's potential buyer. According to Rot, Bank Leumi workers will not cooperate with Saffra unless an agreement is reached before the sale process is finalized.

"If the buyer is interested in acquiring a bank with walls and workers, he will have to negotiate with us," Rot said. "The buyer needs workers to operate the bank and reap profits."

Last week, Leumi's workers committee distributed a letter to all employees urging them to take part in a fight to maintain existing work conditions.

The committee appealed to the workers to contribute NIS 180 each, with the aim of raising approximately NIS 2m.

Bank Hapoalim sets up Zurich subsidiary

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim has set up a Zurich subsidiary specializing in international investment banking.

Poalim Financial Markets was established in partnership with Charles Reisman, an American investment banker, with an investment of \$5.15 million.

Hapoalim has an 85 percent share of the company, while Reisman holds the remaining 15%, with an option to increase his

share to 30%. Reisman, who owns investment banking firms in the US and Europe, will manage the subsidiary.

Dan Yabas, general manager of Poalim Capital Markets, was appointed chairman of the company. Poalim Financial Markets will offer similar services to those pro-

vided by Poalim Capital Markets here.

The company will provide international investment consultancy services, management of investment portfolios, private issues, mergers and acquisitions. The company will also conduct economic valuations of projects and

companies and project financing.

A Bank Hapoalim spokesman said the new firm was established as part of the Hapoalim Group's plans to integrate into the European investment banking sector.

The subsidiary is expected to serve foreign and Israeli customers interested in raising capital abroad, foreign acquisitions and mergers. The company will operate mainly in Europe.

Tempo Beer Industries announces NIS 5.3 million net profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

TEMPO Beer Industries has announced second quarter net profits of NIS 5.3 million on revenues of NIS 105m., up from a net loss of NIS 2m. on revenues of NIS 93.8m. in the same period last year.

The company said the rise was due to measures taken to lower raw material costs and reduce marketing and sales expenses.

Dubek has posted second quarter net profits of NIS 3.36m. on revenues (including sales tax) of NIS 201.75m. compared with NIS 1.8m. and NIS 213m. last year.

Dubek's earnings per share were NIS 3.29 compared with NIS 1.77.

Meir Ezra's net profits have dropped to NIS 128,000 on revenues of NIS 75m. compared with NIS 5.3m. on revenues of NIS 28.2m. for the second quarter of last year.

Earnings per share were NIS 0.029, compared with NIS 1.69.

The company experienced losses on traded securities, and losses on its subsidiaries Wil-

liger and Tibon Veal were NIS 1.6m.

The company pointed out that in previous years, results of subsidiaries Off Tene and Frost Shein had been included in company reports.

Offer Brothers investments have announced net profits of NIS 2.74m. on sales revenues of NIS 1.4m. compared with NIS 2.47m. and NIS 1m. for the comparable period last year.

Earnings per share improved to NIS 4.99 from NIS 4.59. Half-year results were more dramatic, dropping to NIS 1.8m. from NIS 22m.

The company said results were primarily influenced by an accelerated rate of amortization resulting from the acquisition of Kvalim to 20% a year and additional amortization on

other acquisitions.

Silicon has reported net profits of \$331,000 on revenues of \$1m. compared with a net loss of \$20,000 on revenues of \$242,000 last year.

President Avi Eizenman attributed the growth to several significant orders and the company's ability to meet customer demand.

Nice Systems has reported a net loss of NIS 2.6m. on revenues of NIS 8.6m. compared with a net profit of NIS 386,455 on revenues of NIS 4.1m. last year.

It cited increased management costs resulting from the establishment of US subsidiary NiceCom, and losses on Aspro Engineering, of which it holds 30%.

Nice announced yesterday it would produce voice-logging systems for TRW subsidiary ESL. The deal is valued at NIS 2m.

Bank Carmel has suffered a quarterly net loss of NIS 403,000 as compared with a net loss of NIS 332,000 last year.

Pioneer International Ltd

South African Economic Statistics

	Prices 7.9.94	Prices 31.8.94	%Change
Exchange rates:			
Commercial rand (buy)	3.568	3.587	0.53%
Financial rand (buy)	4.525	4.557	0.70%
Interest rates:			
Money market (BA's) (Ry)	10.80%	10.95%	-1.37%
Escrow 2008	15.92%	15.83%	0.57%
Escrow 2020	14.27%	14.27%	0.00%
RSA 150	15.58%	15.46%	0.78%
UAL Max Income	14.56%	14.61%	-0.34%
Prices UTL:			
OM Investors (buy)	43.6057	42.1314	3.50%
Escrow 168	69.11518	69.49948	-0.55%
Guardbank	36.7645	36.2814	1.33%
UAL Gilt	11.971	11.9087	0.52%
Max Income	10.4731	10.4444	0.27%
Shares:			
De Beers	109.75	104.50	5.02%
Vital Reef	490.00	428.00	14.49%
Anglo American	259.00	260.00	-0.38%
Barlows	33.75	31.75	6.30%
SA Brews	37.00	37.00	0.00%
Sasol	35.50	32.25	10.08%
Tiger Oats	42.50	41.50	2.41%
Iscoor	4.60	4.18	10.05%
JSE Actuarial Overall	6.009	5.846	2.79%

COMMENTS: Inflation is forecast to move higher in the coming months, and is predicted to reach 8% for this year and 12% for 1995. Factors which indicate inflationary expectations are the current wave of labour award pressure on production and consumer prices. The current sharp depreciation in the external value of the Rand, and the higher price of oil are placing strong upward pressure on production and consumer prices. The balance of payments is also close to concern. Together with the unfavorable trend in the Capital Account, strong pressure on foreign reserves and the external value of the Rand will make the abolition of exchange controls difficult.

UAL MAXIMUM INCOME FUND MANAGER'S COMMENT: The behaviour of the Gilt market has further strengthened our conviction that it is correct to remain highly liquid in the Fund, to avoid the continuing capital losses of the long bonds. Clearly, aiming the re-entry into larger dated Gilts, which now offer high yields will be the key. However the Escrow at 69, down from 80 at the beginning of the year, leaves us a large margin for error.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Petah (foreign currency deposit rates) (8.9.94)					
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS		6 MONTHS		12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.250	4.500	4.500	5.000	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.675	3.675	3.675	3.675	3.675
Port sterling (£100,000)	4.000	4.125	4.125	4.125	4.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.125	3.125	3.125	3.125	3.125
Swiss franc (SF 250,000)	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750
Yen (10 million yen)	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750
			3.675	3.675	3.675
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.9.94)					
	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Market
Currency basket	3.3440	3.3710			3.3620
U.S. dollar	3.3440	3.3710	2.56	3.08	3.3200
German mark	1.5846	1.6081	1.39	1.39	1.6214
Port sterling	4.8382	4.7048	4.26	4.67	4.6747
Japanese yen (100)	0.0549	0.0578	0.58	0.58	0.5881
Dutch florin	0.3671	0.3559	3.11	3.11	3.0480
Swiss franc	1.7258	1.7801	1.70	1.78	1.7586
Swedish krona	2.2151	2.2457	2.27	2.28	2.2310
Norwegian kroner	0.4403	0.4538	0.43	0.43	0.4457
Denish krone	0.4885	0.4984	0.48	0.50	0.4850
Finland mark	0.3571	0.3555	0.38	0.41	0.3610
Canadian dollar	2.1820	2.2220	2.15	2.26	2.2101
Australian dollar	2.2587	2.2607	2.18	2.20	2.2478
S. African rand	0.8423	0.8541	0.83	0.85	0.8488
Belgian franc (10)	0.8400	0.9532	0.92	0.97	0.9483
Italian lire (100)	2.7905	2.7883	2.70	2.83	2.7710
Italian lire (100)	1.0353	1.5821	1.06	1.47	1.1985
Japanese yen	—	—	—	—	—
Yemenian dollar	—	—	—	—	—
Israeli pound	—	—	0.81	0.81	0.8782
ECU	3.3650	3.3650	—	—	3.7148
Irish punt	4.5708	4.6413	4.47	4.47	4.6107
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3232	2.3960	2.25	2.42	2.3430

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.



deeply mourns the passing of

Prof. ABRAHAM GELBART ז"ל
honorary alumnus and member of
our Global Board of Trustees
founder of the Gelbart Institute of Mathematics
loyal patron of the university

The entire Bar-Ilan family extends profound
condolences to his
beloved wife, Mona, to his children
and to all members of his extended family.



The Gelbart Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences
mourns the sudden passing of its patron and honorary director,

Dr. ABRAHAM GELBART ז"ל
in New York on September 7, 1994, and extends its heartfelt
condolences to the family.

Prof. Z. Arad, Pro-Rector
Prof. K. Hochberg, Chairman,
Department of Mathematics
Prof. B. Pinchuk, Director,
Gelbart Research Institute

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

deeply mourns the passing of

JOY UNGERLEIDER-MAYERSON
of New York

Member of the University Board of Governors and long-time
friend and supporter of the University

and expresses its condolences to the family.

The Director, Officers, Trustees, Staff and
Fellows of the W.F. Albright Institute of
Archaeological Research

deeply mourn the loss of our good friend and Board Chair

JOY UNGERLEIDER-MAYERSON

and extend our heartfelt condolences
to her family.



The Israel Museum, Jerusalem,
its Board of Directors and staff,
deeply mourn the passing of our dear friend
and generous benefactor

JOY UNGERLEIDER-MAYERSON

and extend heartfelt condolences to the family.

We will cherish her memory forever.

The "Elul" Center and Beit Midrash

mourns the loss of our close friend

JOY UNGERLEIDER-MAYERSON ז"ל

a woman of vision, compassion and strength.

An inspiration to us all.

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

Dr. MARA LIEBERMAN

The funeral will take place today, Friday, Sept. 9, 1994
at 2:00 pm, at Nahlat Itzhak Cemetery

Deeply mourned by her husband: Prof. Lionel Lieberman
Son: David Lieberman
Daughters: Ruth Rogers, Gay Fried, Nina Levy and their families
Sisters: Magda Foldes, Katy Sadan, Miri Matz and their families
The shiva: 38 Keshani St., Ramat-Aviv Gimmel

In deep sorrow, we mourn the loss of our
beloved friend

**Ambassador
AMIEL E. NAJAR**

Graubart Family
Antwerp, Belgium / Jerusalem, Israel

The setting of the tombstone of

HARRIET (Hannah) DORFMAN ז"ל

will take place at Har Tamir Cemetery on
Tuesday, September 13, 1994.
Meeting at Har Tamir entrance - junction Givat Shaul Street at 5 p.m.

The unveiling of the tombstone for
CHARNA JEAN NUSSBAUM
mother of Sylvia and Meyer Zelfman

will take place on
Tuesday, September 13, 1994, at 4 p.m.
We shall meet in the parking lot of Har Tamir
(Har Hamenuhot), Jerusalem.

Germans, Allies honor Berlin Airlift airmen

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany and its western Allies paid tribute to the airmen of the 1948-49 Berlin Airlift yesterday as the once-divided city honored the American, British and French soldiers who defended it through the Cold War.

Speaking at Tempelhof Airport, where Allied planes landed every few minutes during the 11-month Soviet blockade of West Berlin, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Germany would never forget what its partners did for it.

"We saw what it means to have reliable friends in time of need," he told the crowd including 22 medal-bedecked veterans at a memorial commemorating the 70 airmen who died in the airlift, mostly in crashes and other accidents.

"I thank you in the name of my countrymen."

The ceremony was part of a 10-hour program Berlin put together to mark the final withdrawal of Allied troops after they defended the city's western sectors from communist attack for 49 years.

The day was due to end with a glittering torchlit parade and traditional Prussian-style military tattoo at the Brandenburg Gate, the symbol of German unity cut off from the west for 28 years by the grim Wall that split the city.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Soviet leader Joseph Stalin had miscalculated when he ordered the blockade in 1948 to starve West Berlin into submission to communist rule.

"What Stalin failed to judge was



US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, French President Francois Mitterrand, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and British Prime Minister John Major pose for photographers at the Berlin Airlift ceremony.

the will of the Berliners to defy intimidation and the resolve of the Allied forces to see them through," he said in his speech.

He recalled that Allied planes, which flew over 277,000 missions

between June 1948 and May 1949 carrying food and supplies, brought in enough coal on one day to fill 600 railroad cars.

Further flights continued for another four months after Moscow

lifted the blockade because of problems with the roads leading to the city isolated deep inside the Soviet zone.

British Prime Minister John Major said the Allies never ac-

cepted Germany's division and were pleased to see their troops withdraw from the free, united capital of a united Germany.

"That means more than any words can convey, those who died in the airlift did not die in vain."

The day's festivities started off in confusion over whether one guest of honor, French President Francois Mitterrand, was well enough to attend the events.

Just before the guests were due to arrive at the baroque Charlottenburg Palace to start the official program, a German official erroneously said Mitterrand had pulled out of two outdoor events for health reasons.

Mitterrand's office in Paris promptly contradicted the spokesman, saying: "It was never planned that the president would attend either the airlift or the military tattoo, since France will be represented at these ceremonies by Defense Minister Francois Leotard."

German officials could not explain the confusion, which only heightened speculation about Mitterrand's health among Berliners who watched on live television as Chancellor Helmut Kohl waited for 15 minutes for the president's delayed arrival.

Speculation about Mitterrand's health has been rife since his second operation for prostate cancer in July. In an interview with the newspaper *Le Figaro* yesterday, Mitterrand, 77, said he might have only a few months to live.

UN parley drafts new resolution on abortion

CAIRO (Reuters) - Delegates at a UN population conference found a new form of words on the vexed question of abortion yesterday but Vatican representatives seemed likely to express reservations if they could not change it.

After days of haggling between liberals and religious conservatives over whether abortion could ever be safe and whether legal abortion was conceivable, a small working group came back with the new, painstakingly drafted paragraph.

The overwhelming majority already agree on abortion and wants to press on with other parts of a declaration setting guidelines for holding world population to about 7.27 billion in the year 2015, up from 5.67 billion today.

Despite repeated protestations

that abortion is a distraction, the subject has kept coming back to haunt the gathering of more than 150 UN member states. The nine-day Cairo conference is now in its fourth day.

Delegates said the organizers distributed the new text in the main drafting committee and told them to sleep on it.

The main innovation is a definition of unsafe abortion, inserted as a footnote to try to answer the Vatican's argument that it can never be safe, for the fetus.

"Unsafe abortion is defined as a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical standards or both," the footnote says.

UN fears new guerrilla war, more massacres in Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda (Reuters) - Troops of Rwanda's ousted Hutu government are preparing to go back to war and fighters have already made incursions to harass and kill civilians, the UN's envoy and officers from the victorious army said yesterday.

Ambassador Shaharyar Khan said United Nations military personnel had spotted men in military fatigues, with guns and supplies, crossing the border into southwest Rwanda from neighboring Burundi and Zaire.

He described the movement as "classic preparations for guerrilla warfare" in an internal memorandum sent to UN headquarters in New York.

Khan confirmed his report at a news conference, and said there had been increased "sniping and shooting" in the southwest - the former "safe zone" patrolled by French forces and now controlled by UN peacekeepers.

Rwanda's new Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga said he had been informed of increased shootings in the zone in the last 48 hours - one of the reasons the Rwanda Patriotic Front army wanted to move into the region as soon as possible.

US officers charged in shutdown over Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - The US Air Force has brought charges of negligent homicide and dereliction of duty against an F-15 pilot involved in shooting down two US Army Black Hawk helicopters over northern Iraq in April.

The tragedy took the lives of 26 people.

In addition, five members of the AWACS radar plane that oversaw the action will face dereliction of duty charges, the Pentagon announced yesterday.

The incident was one of the military's deadliest friendly fire tragedies. Twenty-six charges of negligent homicide and one charge of dereliction of duty have been brought against Lt. Col. Randy W. May, of the 53rd Fighter Squadron, based in Spandahlheim, Germany, the Pentagon said in the statement.

In deep sorrow we announce the sudden passing of our
dearly beloved brother

Rabbi MEYER YECHIEL HOROVITZ ז"ל
Winnipeg, Toronto, Chicago

Rabbi Moshe Horovitz and Family, Jerusalem
Marlan Cutler and Family, Wilmette, Illinois
Freda Robinson and Family, Chicago, Illinois
Sonia Goldsmith and Family, Netanya/San Francisco

Sadly mourned by his children
Aviva Baum and Family, Passaic, N.J.
Rabbi Hillel Horowitz and Family, Teaneck, N.J.
Rabbi Abba Horowitz and Family, Teaneck, N.J.

Shiva at the home of Rabbi Moshe Horovitz, 15/A Harav Frank,
Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem

On the *shloshim* after the passing of our beloved

EDDY (Eduard) IZAKS ז"ל

we will unveil the tombstone and hold a
memorial service on Tuesday,
September 13, 1994 (8 Tishrei 5755)
at 4:30 p.m. at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.

The Family

Protestant extremists rule out matching IRA cease-fire soon

BELFAST (Reuters) - Protestant extremists said yesterday they would not match an IRA cease-fire until Britain and Ireland updated their latest plan for an overall settlement to the 25-year conflict.

At the same time, Gerry Adams, head of the Irish Republican Army's political wing, Sinn Fein, demanded that the British government tell Northern Ireland's Protestant majority that their future lies with the Irish Republic.

Security forces, trying to take advantage of the respite offered by the week-old IRA cease-fire, were told to relax a little. They changed combat helmets for berets and cut down slightly on patrols.

The statement by the outlawed armed Protestant groups held the threat of violence over the province for another month by linking any truce to Anglo-Irish peace moves due in October.

"We have yet to ascertain the bona-fides of the permanence of the IRA cease-fire," the Combined Loyalist Military Command (CLMC) said in a statement.

THE CLMC, which groups the pro-British Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), said it wanted to be convinced Britain had reached no secret deal to reward the IRA for stopping its guerrilla war.

IRA extremist Irish nationalists, who draw support

mainly from the Catholic community, have fought a 25-year violent campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland. They have been opposed by so-called "loyalist" Protestant extremists.

The CLMC linked its own cease-fire, which Britain and Ireland have both called for, to a new "framework" document the two governments are drafting that is expected to map out the next phase of their plans for the province.

The CLMC also demanded that Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom be guaranteed and that "no secret deals have been concocted between [the government] and the IRA."

Protestant "unionists" are worried the IRA cease-fire is at best a tactic being used by the guerrillas to trick the British government into concessions, at worst a plot between London and the IRA to abandon Northern Ireland to Dublin's control.

The UVF and UFF have struck at Catholics three times since it was announced, killing one man, shooting at another and car-bombing the Sinn Fein press office in Belfast.

Security sources say the extremists are a worse threat than the IRA. They have killed more people than the IRA has in the past two years and, unless they match the cease-fire, there is no chance that security forces can be scaled back significantly.

O.J. Simpson relinquishes guardianship of children

Man won't testify in related case, fears death

LOS ANGELES (AP) - O.J. Simpson has agreed to give up custody of his two children, but can seek their return if acquitted in the slaying of his ex-wife, according to court papers obtained by The Associated Press.

Simpson agreed last month to turn over guardianship of Sydney Brooke Simpson, 8, and Justin Ryan Simpson, 6, to his former wife's parents, according to documents obtained Wednesday.

William M. Walker, lawyer for the parents of Nicole Brown Simpson, said the court is expected to approve the guardianship within a few days.

Simpson, a popular American football hero, has pleaded innocent in the slaying deaths of his former wife and her friend Ronald Goldman. Trial is set for September 26.

Ms. Simpson's parents filed a petition July 27, asking to be made legal guardians of Sydney and Justin. Simpson filed his agreement on August 31.

"Simpson is entitled to seek termination of this guardianship and a resumption of his status as a parent having legal and physical

custody upon his release from incarceration," said the papers signed by Simpson, the Browns and their lawyers.

Also Wednesday, a man was jailed for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating a related case.

John M. Dunton claims he will be killed if he testifies before the grand jury investigating Simpson's best friend, Al Cowlings.

The grand jury is considering whether to file criminal charges against Cowlings, who drove Simpson's car the day he fled from authorities in a televised chase along Los Angeles' freeways.

Dunton, a 32-year-old with a forgery record, approached the district attorney's office with information about the Simpson case and was promised anonymity, said his lawyer, Robert Reutner.

Reutner declined to discuss what Dunton told investigators, but said it related to the murders, not the Cowlings investigation.

Dunton has refused to say whom he fears and why. He could be held until next June, when the grand jury term expires.

Pope talks to Serbian community of Sarajevo

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) - Addressing the people of Sarajevo by TV and radio after being forced to call off his visit there, Pope John Paul II yesterday offered a spiritual embrace to the city's Serbs and a wish of peace to Orthodox hierarchy.

Two days earlier, the Vatican scrapped the one-day visit to Sarajevo which had been set for yesterday.

It said the pope feared for the safety of the people who would have come out to see him and also worried that his pilgrimage of peace could somehow be misconstrued and end up aggravating tensions.

John Paul then decided to say a special Mass for peace in the Balkans yesterday morning, during the same time he would have been flying to Sarajevo.

The Mass, with homily and prayers said in Serbo-Croat, was broadcast by TV and radio to Sarajevo from the courtyard of the pope's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, a hilltown near Rome.

Palaces at our expense," Williams said in a BBC interview.

"We should say, now look, the president has the White House, you have Buckingham Palace... tell us in detail exactly why all the extra accommodation is needed."

The report said that "there needs to be public visibility of the £20 million (\$31 million) of public money involved."

Royal aides, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said it was not the report that stung, but the way it was reported.

The latest newspaper outcry follows a couple of years of headlines about royal marriage breakdowns and royal finances.

Most recently, Diana, Prince Charles' estranged wife, broke another royal taboo by meeting a newspaper reporter to deny she had been making nuisance calls to a married man.

The legislators, who questioned the queen's chief accountant, reported that the nearly £5 million (\$7.75 million) raised by throwing open Buckingham Palace to visitors had gone toward the restoration fund for fire-damaged Windsor Castle.

\$1.18m. phone bill - Who does the queen talk to?

LONDON (AP) - When it isn't love, it's money troubling Britain's royal family.

This time, a parliamentary committee wants closer scrutiny of the £20 million (\$31 million) it costs taxpayers each year to keep five royal palaces going.

Newspapers carried outraged headlines yesterday and splashed sections of the report - including the news that Queen Elizabeth II ran up a £766,000 (\$1.18 million) phone bill last year.

She did, however, get £20,000 (\$31,000) back from members of her family and household to pay for private calls.

Angry aides at Buckingham Palace accused newspapers, the bane of the royals' troubled lives, of distorting the report issued by the all-party Committee of Public Accounts.

For starters, said a palace spokesman, only about one-fourth of the phone bill was actual talking time. The rest went to pay 11 operators to take calls from the public at the palaces, and for rents for special lines and maintenance.

The committee members fell out, too. Michael Shersby, a mem-

ber of the governing Conservative Party, described the report as "straightforward" and simply seeking more "public visibility" on the way the money is spent.

But the committee's leading member from the main opposition Labor Party, Alan Williams, got most of the air time, grumbling about the queen's "pampered court" and suggesting it was time she got by with just one palace.

The report covered expenditure on Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the queen's weekend retreat west of London: St. James's Palace, where Prince Charles lives; Kensington Palace, where Princess Diana and a clutch of other royals live in separate, lavish apartments; and Clarence House, home of the queen's 94-year-old mother, Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The queen also has a Scottish castle, Balmoral, and Sandringham House estate in eastern England. But she maintains those as her personal property.

"We now have a situation where the royal family, which are billionaires and have two palaces of their own, require another five

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6, Division A 165/9.



faces Petah Tikva as league resumes

stop until she has won," Vicente Modahl said.

All-rounder Cork made a brilliant 94 after Essex had reduced

so she is dedicating herself to clearing her name - she will never stop until she has won," Vicente Modahl said.

stop until she has won," Vicente Modahl said.

At Lord's: Middlesex 513-7 after 110 overs (J. Carr 261 not out, P. Weekes 94, M. Roseberry 59) v Gloucestershire.

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6:00 US Open tennis 7:00 Swimming 8:00
NBA behind the scenes 8:30 WWF 9:30
European soccer show 10:30 International
sports magazine 11:30 Swimming 12:30 US
Open tennis 15:30 Live swimming 17:00
Live US Open tennis 1:00 WWF

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- Intelligence experts Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg give you inside stories of international intrigue.

Weizman to host artists from Israel, Arab states

BATSHEVA TSUR

SOME 30 writers, artists and other intellectuals from Arab countries, including those that have not yet made peace with Israel, will join almost 400 of their Israeli and Palestinian counterparts at a cultural gathering under the patronage of President Ezer Weizman in Jerusalem on Monday.

The event, billed "Creating Peace," is being organized by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry.

It will bring together representatives from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt, as well as other Arab countries, with Jewish and Arab intellectuals from Israel and from the territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will attend the gathering at Beit Hanassi where the artists and intellectuals will give expression to their feelings about peace. A wide spectrum of Israeli intellectuals and artists in all fields will participate, a Beit Hanassi spokesman said.

"The idea behind the meeting is that peace arrangements have to be accompanied not only by talks between official leaders but by the peoples of the nations involved, including the artists who can give expression to the desire for peace," the spokesman said yesterday. "With this in mind, the president has given his patronage to the event."

During their four-day visit here, the Arab intellectuals will also travel to Gaza to meet with Palestinian leaders, including PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Arkia Airlines will provide them with a plane to fly to Eilat where they will be guests of Mayor Gabi Kadosh. The following day, they are expected to cross the Egyptian border to visit Tabu and later the Jordanian border to see Akaba.

Israeli on UN rights panel

PROF. David Kreitmer was elected to the UN Commission on Human Rights yesterday. He was one of nine chosen from among 30 candidates by secret ballot. He received 68 votes and came in fifth among those selected. (Lim)

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS Community in Modi'in

A group of National Religious families is being formed, for the early purchase of apartments in Modi'in. Yeshiva and university graduates are invited to the registration meeting of the group, which will take place at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, at Ra'anana Absorption Center, 13 Hasharon St. For details, call during evening hours: 02-560276, 09-983136

Jerusalem churches plan future of holy places

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE patriarchs of the three historic churches in Jerusalem are to formulate a joint definitive proposal concerning the future of the holy places in the city, according to Christian sources.

The statement by the Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Latin patriarchs, as well as the Franciscan custodians of the Holy Land, is to represent the common interests of the three churches in the holy places in the city. However, the proposal will not deal with the future of Jerusalem, a senior church official said.

The decision to formulate such a statement was made at a meeting by the patriarchs last month at the residence of Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I. In contrast to previous statements by Christian leaders, which were signed by all or most of the heads of the various communities, this statement is to only reflect the concerns of the three historic churches, which actually share the administration of the holy places, including the Church of

the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

In some Christian circles the proposal, which would be a reflection of the views of all historic churches, is seen as a possible balance for the agreement between Israel and the Holy See. It is seen as a final paper and it will take considerable thought to complete, because if anything is left out, it cannot be added later, one church official said.

However, the very importance of the proposal is likely to cause considerable time to elapse before any agreement is reached between the heads of the three communities. Other factors which could cause postponement of any joint statement include the fact that Armenian Patriarch Torkom Manougian is presently in Armenia serving as acting head of the world Armenian church until a successor is elected to replace the late catholicos. Also, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I is in poor health.

Health Ministry official expects improvement in Gaza produce

JUDY SIEGEL

THE quality of Gaza produce should improve over the coming weeks since Palestinian growers are eager to avoid contamination of their fruits and vegetables, Dr. Brian Coussin, head of the Health Ministry's Food Service Division, said yesterday.

It will still take "a long time" before produce from Gaza is so labeled in outdoor markets and in shops, he said.

Coussin and his staff are advising Gaza farmers on avoiding sewage water, as well as supervising lab tests of 10 samples a day. After finding "worrisome" amounts of fecal coli in vegetables from the territories, the ministry staffers last week doubled the number of tests from five per day.

Coussin said absolutely no salmonella, shigella, polio or other microbes - except for coli - have been found. It takes 36 hours to get the lab results, and in the meantime, contaminated produce reaches the markets.

"But we now have a very good idea where the contaminated produce comes from: more frequent tests will not tell us more. We have given lists of frequent violators to the Agriculture Ministry inspectors, who prevent their fruits and vegetables from coming over the border," Coussin said.

sin said.

Fruits are much less of a problem, because they are high on the tree and not in contact with contaminated water used to irrigate them. Bacteria and viruses do not travel through the roots and into the fruit. Vegetables are contaminated by direct contact with fecal material, Coussin said.

In any case, cooking (even quickly, using a wok) will kill all germs. All produce should be washed under running water to remove dirt, then placed in a soapy solution, rubbing each piece separately with Scotchbrite before rinsing again.

Soaking alone is quite useless, he said. Coussin advised against using chlorine (*Economica*) to disinfect produce. "Chlorine that mixes with organic compounds from the soil can make the produce carcinogenic. It is also dangerous for children to see parents put *Economica* on food and dangerous in general to have the chemical in the kitchen."

Any damaged produce should be cooked well or thrown away, as microbes can enter through the skin.

The ministry microbiologist says the Palestinian growers are eager to sell non-contaminated

produce to Israel. "They say they don't irrigate plants with sewage water, but that contaminated water may be seeping into water supplies. I tend to believe them. But they do say they are now using manure as fertilizer, and this can also be a source of contamination," Coussin said.

Likud MK Silvan Shalom yesterday called on Health Minister Ephraim Sneh to halt all imports of Gaza produce until labeling of origin is implemented. Sneh's office said the minister "is working on it." Coussin said the Agriculture Ministry opposes labeling because such a requirement would be "unworkable."

The produce coming in from Gaza include tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, sweet and hot peppers, squash, potatoes, corn, grapes, cabbage and beans.

Of the most recent samples taken a few days ago, all of the cucumbers and tomatoes were found to be contaminated. In any case, some produce from Israeli growers are also contaminated, so buying vegetables from local sources, especially during the hot months, is no guarantee of safety, said Coussin. Supermarket chains claim to buy only from Israeli growers, but they can also market contaminated produce.



Movie star Kirk Douglas poses yesterday with one of the machines being used to build the \$80,000 multi-purpose playground his foundation is contributing to Kiryat Gat, as Mayor Ze'ev Baum looks on.

Beilin to give keynote speech at interreligious conference

HAIM SHAPIRO

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is to deliver the keynote address at the annual interreligious conference in Assisi, Italy, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

The conference, organized by the Roman Catholic monastic order of St. Egidio, is considered to be one of the major meetings between representatives of the world's various religions. Last year's main speaker was Mikhail Gorbachev. Last year, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau also attended, afterwards meeting with Pope John Paul II.

This year's conference is due to be attended by representatives from Syria, Iran, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Jordan. Portuguese President Mario Soares is also due to attend.

Beilin is also due to meet the Vatican Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Magr. Claudio Maria Celli. It was Celli and Beilin who signed the fundamental agreement between the Vatican and Israel last year.

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IDF names new Women's Corps chief

COL. Yisraela Oron will today assume the post of Women's Corps commander, and will subsequently be promoted to brigadier-general.

Oron, 42, most recently served as deputy IDF Spokesman. She has also served in various posts in the IAF and the Women's Corps.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nine months for manslaughter

A Rehovot man convicted of manslaughter was sentenced to nine months in prison and had his driver's license suspended for five years by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Yosef Carmeli, 32, was found negligent in the deaths of brothers Shimon and David Elharar in a road accident at the Rilu junction in March, 1991. Carmeli crashed head-on into the car in which the Elharars were traveling as he tried to illegally pass another vehicle. Carmeli suffered serious injuries in the accident.

Bezok wants Tehiya liquidated

Bezok yesterday requested that Tel Aviv District Court order the dissolution of *Brit Ne'emanet Eretz Yisrael*, a Tehiya Party non-profit corporation, which it said owes it NIS 36,000 for telephone service. Bezok said that despite repeated requests for payment, the corporation had not reduced its obligation.

'Most feel Skolnick should be freed

Fifty-five percent of Israelis interviewed in a Gallup poll believe that Yoram Skolnick - convicted of murdering a bound terrorist after the man stabbed a Jewish resident of Sussiya - should be freed following the release of terrorists found guilty of murdering alleged collaborators.

The poll asked: "As part of the agreement with the PLO, terrorists convicted of murdering collaborators were released. Following this, in your opinion, should Yoram Skolnick be released or not?"

or not?"

A total of 28% opposed releasing him, while 16% had no opinion on the matter. The poll included a representative sampling of 608 people age 18 and above from throughout the country. The poll had a 4% margin of error.

Helping soldiers hear mom's voice

Army Radio and Bezok are cooperating to enable soldiers without families here to call their parents abroad for the holidays. Army Radio's "Mother's Voice" program and Bezok's marketing department have set up a special telephone answering service for soldiers wishing to participate.

Thai princess to visit

The daughter of the king of Thailand, Princess Chulabhorn D. Mahidol, is due to arrive here today for a six-day visit, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

She will be accompanied by her husband, the Thai Air Force attaché in Washington, and a 20-person entourage. During her visit, the princess will meet with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, President Ezer Weizman, and will tour Jerusalem, the North, and the Negev.

The princess, a chemist, serves as the head of a research institute which sends researchers to various countries, including Israel. She will meet with researchers in Kfar Haim and in Arava communities. In addition, an academic cooperation agreement between the Volcani Institute will be signed.

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Self-defense in the name of Christ

Christians and Moslems have challenged police statements that a Christian self-defense group is operating in the Old City, Bill Hutman writes

A misfired shot in Jerusalem's Old City last week has thrust tensions between local Christians and Moslems back into the limelight.

When a homemade gun injured a young Greek Orthodox priest in a friend's living room in the Christian Quarter, the incident wasn't noticed at first by anyone except the neighbors.

But after the priest arrived at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem neighborhood with shrapnel wounds on his face and hand, police began to investigate.

They say the priest and other Greek Orthodox young men who were later arrested were part of a self-defense group set up to protect the Old City's Christian residents from Moslems.

Investigators allege that the priest, 25-year-old John Kodsodimitrophilos, was playing with the weapon in the living room of the Wakila family's home when it exploded.

Samir Wakila, 21, one of the men arrested, denied being involved in any Christian self-defense organization, but said that he, not the priest, accidentally fired the homemade gun.

It was just an old toy gun that his 17-year-old brother, Johnny, had fixed up so he could shoot squirrels and cats, he said.

"I didn't even know that he had rigged it to really fire when I found it in a drawer that afternoon. I tried two or three times to fire, and then heard the explosion," Samir Wakila said. "I looked up and saw the priest's hands and face bleeding, and ran for help."

Police say the priest kept changing his story.

"At first he said a bomb was thrown at him on the Via Dolorosa, so we searched the area for hours looking for the terrorists responsible. In the end, we didn't even find remnants of the bomb," said one investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The explosion occurred a week ago Tuesday. By Wednesday afternoon, the priest had become a suspect and three Wakila brothers, aged 17 to 28, were arrested in a raid on their home. Police say they found the remains of the homemade gun in the home.

The next day, investigators detained two other brothers and a third friend. In a search of those brothers' home they found a cache of knives, swords, spiked clubs and other light weapons.

The youths admitted they were members of a Christian gang organized to defend against attacks by Moslem extremists. Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said last weekend.



Police investigators Hani Sam'an (l) and Rami Hasson exhibit clubs and knives confiscated from the Christian Quarter. (Jesse Harari)

SAMIR WAKILA said he admits only to a newfound fear in the wake of the publicity about the explosion.

"I have a hard time sleeping at night I'm so scared," he said. "The story about our forming a gang was printed in newspapers all over the Arab world," he said, pointing to a few clippings he had from a Jordanian paper, giving the police allegations but not presenting their side.

"I'm sure that anyone that knows us also knows that we were not looking for trouble. But there are those who will only read these stories and think we really did form a gang, and try to hurt us," he said.

The news was dramatic in that the organization of a Christian self-defense group was unprecedented in the Christian Quarter's recent history, police said.

And, for the police, the incident verified their suspicions of increased tensions between Christians and Moslems in the Old City.

The allegations of a Christian self-defense group sparked strong reactions from local Moslem and

Christian leaders, who insist there is no problem and that Moslem-Christian relations have never been better.

"If there really are any incidents, I am sure that they have nothing to do with religious differences," said Mohammed Nuseibeh, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Council, which has helped coordinate Moslem religious and administrative activities in eastern Jerusalem since 1967.

"It is against our religion to injure a believer. As Mohammed says, 'You shall do no harm to one who believes in God,'" Nuseibeh said. "There is no issue today [of Moslem-Christian tensions], there hasn't been one in the past, and there never will be," he said this week.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate lashed out at the "Israeli press and The Jerusalem Post in particular" for reporting on the Christian gang police alleged to have uncovered, according to a statement published on the front page of the eastern Jerusalem daily *Al-Quds* on Monday.

The news reports were "aimed at hurting the brotherly relations between Christians and Moslems," the patriarchate said.

SIX OF the seven suspects, all Greek Orthodox, were released this week. The remand of Johnny Wakila ends today, and his brothers

are waiting to see whether it will be extended or if he will be charged.

All the suspects sharply denied the police allegations. They said they had not organized a gang and are on good terms with Moslems.

The knives and clubs the police found were "souvenirs" like those that many Christian Quarter residents keep in their homes for decoration and not for self-defense, Samir Wakila said.

The priest had been at the Wakila home to lead mourning prayers for their recently deceased mother, according to Samir and his older brother Sami, 28, who was also arrested.

The six already released from custody include the priest; Hani Sayid, 21, and his brother, 17, whose name was not released by police because he is a minor; and Ziyad Saleh, also 21. Police say they found the knives and clubs in the Sayid home.

Kodsodimitrophilos, the priest, originally lied to police because he knew that although no foul play was intended with the homemade gun, police would believe otherwise, according to the Wakila brothers.

They also said that police did not find the gun during their search of the family's home. The brothers said they brought it to the Kishlev police station and tried to explain what happened after real-

izing the priest had gotten mixed up in his lie. Police responded to their honesty by arresting them and ransacking their home, the brothers said.

As for the police spokesman's claim that they told investigators they organized a gang to protect Christians against Moslems, that, they said, was also totally untrue.

Jerusalem police spokesman Ben-Ruby said the gang was organized in reaction to recent increased tensions between Moslems and Christians in the Old City, which peaked over the summer when Moslem youths attacked a Christian youth club, injuring several Christians and doing extensive damage.

Several Israeli officials involved in Christian affairs in Jerusalem say that the incident and the stir it has caused is indicative of a far worse situation than the Christians want to admit.

Christian holy sites, pilgrims and even local residents were the target of Moslem attacks during the intifada far more than their leaders would like to admit, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity this week.

Israeli officials see the situation getting worse before it gets better, saying that with the holy places in Jerusalem, and eastern Jerusalem itself, fast becoming the major issues in the peace talks, the situation will become even tougher for the local Christian population.

"The Christians are caught in the middle, trying to protect their own interests without provoking their fellow Arabs, and afraid of appearing too close to Israel," said one senior official.

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A vote against Iranian dual containment

America's top soldier and an unnamed, high-ranking visitor got a clear message from the PM and top IDF brass: Stop Iran before it's too late. Alon Pinkas reports

A very important visitor from Langley, Virginia, was in Jerusalem for one day early this week to meet with Prime Minister Rabin, top IDF brass and security officials.

On the top of his agenda were Iran and a periodic assessment of the US policy of "dual containment" against both Iran and Iraq. These issues were also on the "talking points" Rabin took with him several weeks ago when he paid a call to the Virginian.

His secret visit coincided with the ceremony and photo opportunities of the visit by chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. John Shalikashvili. He was also briefed by Rabin, Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak and IDF Intelligence Branch head Maj. Gen. Uri Saguy on Iran's attempts to subvert moderate Arab regimes, its relentless policy of trying to disrupt the peace process, and its military buildup.

Shalikashvili and the man from Virginia first visited Egypt, which may not be threatened militarily by Iran. However, moderate Arab regimes like President Hosni Mubarak's are a prime target of Teheran-backed Islamic fundamentalists intent on destabilizing it.

The man from Langley and Shalikashvili were told by Israeli decision makers and Iran watchers that while "dual containment" is a good policy, it is profoundly more effective against Iraq than Iran.

In an article published in February by *Foreign Affairs*, President Clinton's national security adviser, Anthony Lake, called for establishing such a policy.

Lake distinguished between Iraq and Iran. The Clinton administration, he wrote, supports exiled Iraqi dissidents. But, he said, there is the possibility of better relations with Iran.

Lake's proposal included cooperation between the administration and allies to keep material for chemical and nuclear weapons out of Iran. The effort would also prevent Iran from receiving surface-to-surface missiles from such suppliers as North Korea.

Israel enthusiastically endorsed the policy which targeted Iran as a peril to the entire international community and defined the central US role in implementing the policy. Dual containment resolved the debate here over whether Israel should assume a leading role against Iran.

However, Israel has since watched as Iran continued its military buildup uninterrupted, and implemented its policy of subversion through such proxies as Hizbullah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

A government source estimates that Iran provides about \$80 million a year to Hizbullah. *The Middle East Military Balance, 1993-1994*, published last month by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, estimates that Hamas and Islamic Jihad receive approximately \$30 million annually from Iran. Algerian and Sudanese fundamentalists, says a Foreign Ministry source, "receive even more and fulfill Iran's objectives in undermining the regimes."

Dual containment, government officials told their guests this week, is failing against Iran.

Other official visitors this week were German President Roman Herzog and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, whose country is taking a different approach to Iran: "constructive dialogue." Bonn opposes cornering Iran, which it believes won't discourage Teheran's belligerent policies.

German Ambassador Franz Bertele said in an interview last week that Germany - which does \$2 billion in trade a year with the Islamic republic - regards Iran as a "problematic country," for sure.

"But it doesn't make sense to exclude Iran. It is preferable to maintain a dialogue, even on issues such as human rights, as we did with the former Soviet Union with visible results," he said.

Whether there's a dialogue or not, Iran is pursuing its own goals. The prime target of its military buildup is Iraq, whose defeat in the 1991 Gulf war created a regional power vacuum that Iran is eager to fill. But a broader strategic interest is to control oil policy in the Gulf, which is why Iran is perceived by the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, as a major threat.

Iran's crude oil reserves are estimated at 92 billion barrels. By producing 3.24 million barrels a day, its earns \$18b. annually.

Iran was left a strategic weakening by its eight-year war with Iraq. Its military infrastructure was all but demolished; it couldn't buy spare parts for its predominantly US-made, shah-era weapons systems.

Petroleum-rich Russia may not need oil from Iran, but it desperately needs hard currency. Teheran met that need, despite a \$20b. external debt, shopping for weapons in Russia. The first five-year arms procurement plan was devised and launched in 1990.

One year earlier, Iran concluded a major arms deal with Russia which included 100 T-72 tanks and 48 advanced MiG-29 jets. Additional deals were made with Poland and Czechoslovakia. In 1991, Iran and Russia concluded another major deal, involving the sale of 48 MiG-29, 24 long-range Sukhoi-24 and possibly 24 Sukhoi-27 fighter-bombers.

According to *The Middle East Military Balance*, Iran has 380,000 troops, 1,000 tanks, 214 combat planes and two submarines. That is hardly a formidable conventional threat against anyone except the smaller Gulf states, but Iran watchers here say \$1b. in aid is due from North Korea.

Pyeonggang may transfer and assemble or allow self-production of long-range Nordong-1 surface-to-surface missiles - the Nordong is a Scud-D with an estimated range of over 1,000 km. - as well as shorter-range Scuds. Unless these missiles become fully operational, sources here say, Iran poses a very limited direct military threat.

All this is far less excruciating to decision makers here and the US than Iran's nuclear program. Estimates of where Iran's nuclear program is headed and how much progress has been made so far vary from one intelligence agency to another. Some say Iran is at least a decade away from attaining a military nuclear capability. Others say that, unless it's disrupted, Iran could manufacture a primitive Hiroshima-type bomb within three years with the low-enriched uranium it has produced for its civilian reactors.

Despite the fact that Iran signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and that it is, therefore, subject to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Iraqi precedent worries many. Some infrastructure exists, although the construction of two Chinese 300-megawatt reactors has not been completed. The technological know-how is readily available through unemployed and disgruntled scientists from the former Soviet Union.

CIA director James Woolsey estimated in testimony before a US Senate committee that Iran is spending over \$1b. per year on its nuclear program. Israelis agree, but stressed to the visiting Americans that unless something is done - and preferably not German-style constructive dialogue - that spending may increase.

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Health care for everyone – at a higher price

The national health-insurance system is expected to go into effect next month. Health Ministry official Gabi Bin-Nun talks to Judy Siegel-Itzkovich about it

AFTER three decades and some dozen failed legislative attempts, a national health-insurance system, with universal coverage for all residents, will come into effect on January 1 – if a majority of the Knesset doesn't decide to postpone implementation by a few months.

Although the final bill passed 68-0 in the Knesset earlier this year, it remains a controversial piece of legislation.

The three smaller health funds – Maccabi, Meuhedet and Leumit – claim it will bring catastrophe. The better-off sectors of the population worry that they will be paying much more and receiving much less.

Even Health Minister Dr. Ephraim Sneh – more a midwife than a parent because most of the work was done before he took office – has claimed there is a gap of hundreds of millions of shekels between what the health system will get and what it needs.

Gabi Bin-Nun, a deputy director-general of the ministry, head of its planning department, a US-trained economist and one of the architects of the law, answers questions on its implementation.

Are we getting the same national health-insurance system you envisioned more than a year ago, or did the Knesset or the ministry's bureaucracy change the spirit or the letter of the law?

The law is fundamentally the same. The major principles that were so important to us then – such as universal coverage, no linkage between political organizations and health-fund membership, the public's right to choose freely among health funds, a recognized basket of health services and a capitation system that compensates health funds more for older members – are, in place.

All in all, I think it is a good law that will substantially improve health care for the population. It will bring on a new era in which health funds will try to court members, and members will not have to run after their insurers.

THE MONEY

How much will we pay in health taxes? Is all gross income included in the calculation or only pensionable income? How will the income of self-employed people be calculated and how will they pay? Suppose people don't pay on time?

There will be two rates: 3.1% of all monthly income for the first NIS 2,000, and 4.8% for all income beyond that figure. Thus, there will be no one who pays more than 4.6% of his entire monthly income.

The minimum payment per adult will be NIS 47 per month, and this includes the poor, the unemployed, and people living on subsistence grants who are not working. The maximum anyone will pay, and this includes millionaires, is NIS 734 per month per breadwinner.

A major Knesset reform has included all income, and not only pensionable income, as the basis of NII payments. This begins, incidentally, on January 1. That means that NII payments will be calculated on the entire gross income, including overtime, car maintenance and so on, but not including employers' rebates for legitimate expenses.

As compensation, there will be

a reduction in NII payments for incomes under NIS 2,000, and the ceiling for NII payments will be four times the average wage not only for the self-employed, but also for salaried workers. The health tax will be calculated on the same basis.

Salaried workers will have their health tax deducted from their salary slips, just as National Insurance Institute (NII) fees and income tax are deducted at source. The self-employed will have to pay their health tax, just like NII payments and income taxes.

Anyone who doesn't will nevertheless receive the basic basket of health services; but failing to pay is a criminal violation, and there are the same sanctions for this as those against people who cheat on their income tax. We are confident that people will pay their health taxes, as this is personally important to them.

Until now, working women have received a 30% discount on their health-fund membership fees because they spend so much money on child care. Will this discount continue? What percentage of the population will pay more than now, and how many will pay less?

People who earn more than NIS 5,000 gross per month are likely to pay more. Those who earn less will pay less. Better-paid working women will pay more, but most working women will pay less. Until now, men whose wives didn't work outside the home paid much more than their share.

If the government wants to help working women, it can do so by granting income-tax credits, but this is outside the health-tax apparatus.

What will the tax be for pensioners – including pensioners who are new immigrants from Western countries and who have been paying many hundreds of shekels for health care? Will people who receive NII allowances (such as widows and the disabled) have to pay?

Pensioners and others who receive NII allowances will pay no more than NIS 47 each on their allowances; those who work will pay the 3.1% or 4.8% fee only on that income. Students will pay the same way. Immigrant pensioners will greatly benefit. We will not investigate what money they have from other sources, such as US Social Security or reparations for victims of the Nazis.

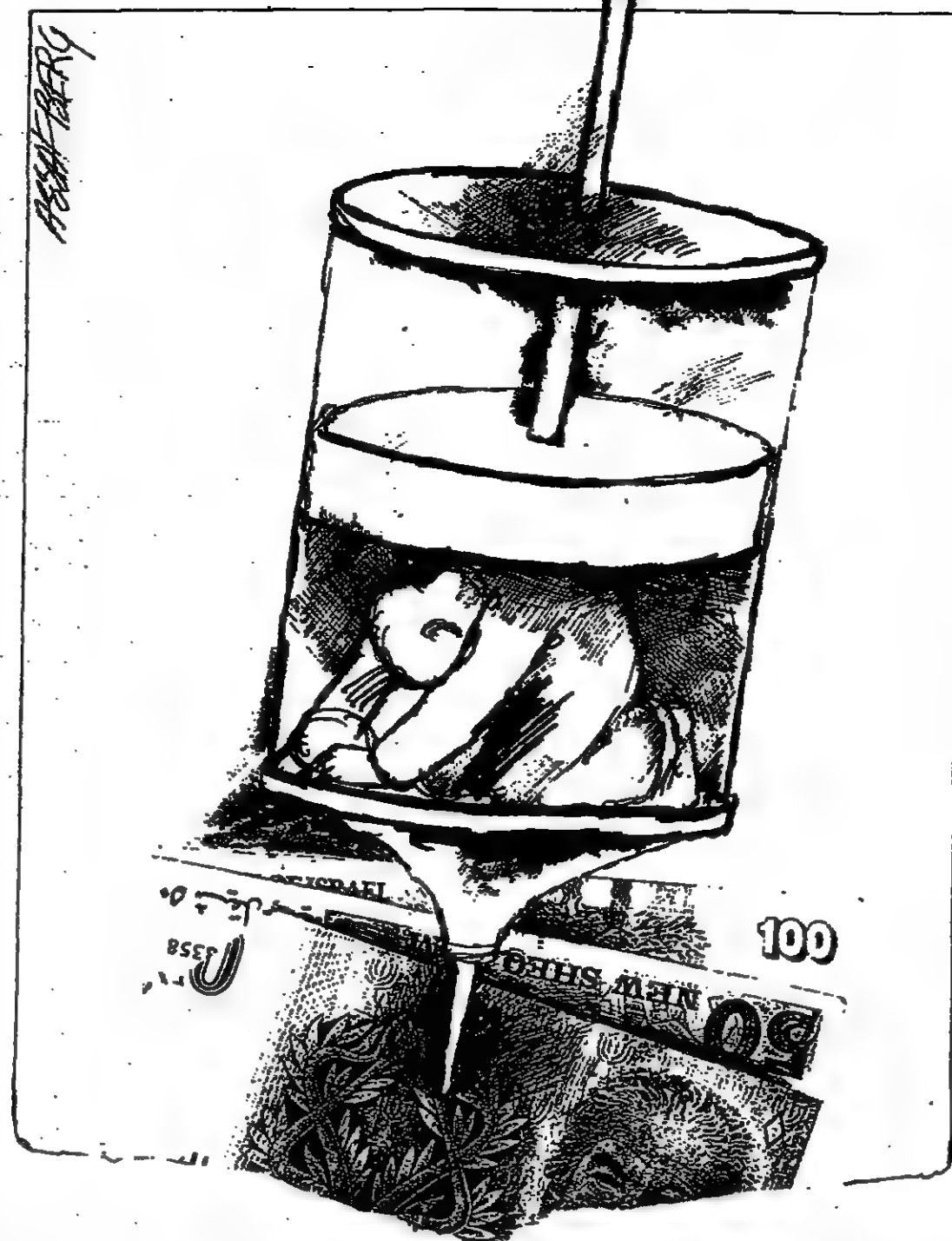
New immigrants will no longer get six months' free membership in a health fund. They will pay NIS 47 per month from the start unless they have a job and begin earning; they will then pay the standard percentage on this income.

Will some deal between the Treasury and the Histadrut replace the 4.8% tax rate?

A deal may be worked out to give workers only 0.7% of the next 2.7% cost-of-living increase. In compensation, the health tax could be reduced to only 3.4% of income.

Will only money from the public's and employers' pockets finance the health system? How much money did the state invest in health care annually until now? How much will it spend after January 1?

The Health Ministry has a budget of NIS 2.2 billion, which goes toward salaries and maintenance



of the government hospitals, plus various public-health services and development of hospitals around the country. This amount will continue in 1995 in real terms.

THE SERVICES

What does the basket of services include? What will prevent the health funds from adding new charges for certain services?

The basket of services will include all services provided by Kupat Holim Clalit on January 1, 1994. The list, comprising many pages, is official. It hasn't changed during the past year, and there is no significant difference between those services covered by Clalit and those provided by the smaller health funds.

If there are differences among the funds, it is in quality of ser-

vices or convenience or pleasantness. But now the health funds will be able to compete for members by providing improved and additional services.

Will the health funds provide the same medications at subsidized prices as they did before?

There will be no change in the existing lists.

When will psychiatric and geriatric care be included in the basket of services?

We haven't yet set a date. For the time being, the present situation, in which the state and the health funds share responsibility, will continue.

What will come under supplementary health-insurance schemes?

Who sets the limits? Will preventive medicine be covered automatically by health funds?

The health funds may offer supplementary health-insurance schemes that allow choice of a surgeon, private hospital rooms and so on, but these must not include any services that are in the recognized basket of services. Transplants and other treatments abroad that are not available here will, for example, be included in the basket. Preventive medicine will soon be included, too.

THE CHOICES

Will anyone be able to switch health funds, and how often? How does one go about this? Will there be a quota? Will a husband be able to be in one fund and the other family members in another if there

are two breadwinners? Do you see major movements of members from one health fund to another?

We had thought of establishing a quota, because the smaller insurers demanded it and said they would be flooded with new members. But we decided against a quota after some charged we were trying to protect Clalit.

One may join any health fund. The procedure involves informing the funds one leaves and one wants to join three months in advance. You may change insurers once in six months. A wife may join a health fund that is different from her husband's. The two must decide who will insure the children: if they don't decide, the children will go to the mother's insurer.

We don't expect a major exodus from one health fund to another. Most people who intended to move have done so in recent months. People who are undergoing treatment and like their present doctors are not likely to move to another health fund with other doctors. But I can't say we are sure what is going to happen. The smaller funds will have to learn to live with the new situation.

There are some 200,000 Israelis without health insurance today. They must register; if they don't, the Health Ministry will register them. We will divide those up proportionately among the various health funds, according to size.

Will there be free choice of doctors from the existing lists?

As before, the health fund will decide on its list of doctors. We are not interfering.

How does an insured person obtain his medical file from his previous health fund and transfer it to the new health fund?

These, at least in copy form, will be transferred from one doctor to another. There will be no problem, and privacy will be ensured.

THE ELDERLY

Will the NII capitation system really encourage health funds to want elderly, sickly members?

Compensation of the insurer for the elderly will be four times what they get for a younger member. In addition, we will give extra compensation for members suffering from a handful of diseases that are very expensive to treat, including Gaucher's, hemophilia, thalassemia major and those needing dialysis. We may add more [medical] conditions to this list later.

There are incentives that for the first time encourage insurers to seek older members. They may attempt tricks to discourage the sickly elderly from joining, but the Health Ministry will be there to ensure that they don't succeed. No insurer will be allowed to reject any applicant, for any reason.

Clalit won't have to share revenues with the Histadrut, and its proportionately more elderly membership will bring more compensation.

THE READINESS

With the health minister claiming there is a shortfall of hundreds of millions of shekels and some MKs saying the health system isn't ready for implementation, maybe we're better off with the status quo? Perhaps we should at least wait for a few months, until there's been more preparation?

The minister must fight for as much money as he can get from the Treasury. Some NIS 13 billion will be collected in 1995 by the

National Insurance Institute as health taxes from residents and as employers' taxes. That is about NIS 1 billion more than was collected this year in employers' taxes and health-fund membership fees.

We thought the system's expenses would be somewhat less, but the Treasury granted generous wage increases [of nearly 50%] to workers in the health field this year. I don't blame anyone, but these wage hikes were considerably above those granted to the public sector in general. Money we expected to spend on improvements in the health system, including the purchase of the latest advanced technology, will have to go largely to salaries.

The ministry has already completed 98% of the regulations needed for implementation. There is absolutely no justification for a delay. In fact, for every month that the new system is not in effect, the Treasury will have to subsidize Kupat Holim Clalit – which will take in considerably more money than previously – by NIS 100 million.

Clalit's recovery plan is dependent on implementation of the new health-insurance system; if it doesn't begin on time, Clalit could collapse.

Hospital directors are complaining not about the health-insurance system, but about global budgeting of their institutions, which will also begin soon instead of the per-diem rate they have had for many years. There is some confusion, because several reforms (including income tax, stock market and NII payments) are about to take place during a short period of time.

THE SUPERVISION

Who will supervise implementation? Has the ministry established a special department to do this?

There is no special department, but nearly every department in the ministry will be spending much of its time supervising implementation of the law. And by January 1, there will be an ombudsman who will receive and investigate all complaints.

Have the health-insurance council and other bodies that were supposed to be established been set up to supervise this process?

The names of the 47 members of the council will soon be made public. They already know who they are.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Will everybody have to pay an organizational tax to the Histadrut, even those who are not members of a trade union or the Histadrut, or are self-employed? Isn't forcing an organizational tax on us illegal?

The mooted organizational tax has been severed from the health tax. Our ministry is not involved in this.

Will our new health-insurance system be unique? What is the closest national model for our system?

Although the US hasn't succeeded in bringing about universal health insurance, our system will be similar to that in Holland, Sweden, Germany and France.

If the ministry discovers real bugs in the system, what will it require to correct them?

On January 1, the system begins a three-year transition period. If we see that there are real problems, we will always be able to amend the law and change regulations to correct them.

Workers may bail out the Histadrut

HISTADRUT leaders are still negotiating with the government over the deduction of "organization and handling fees" from the wages of all salaried employees.

These fees – originally set at 0.8% of wages – are intended to finance the activities of the Histadrut, which on January 1 will no longer receive a 1 percent cut of Kupat Holim fees. It is possible that not all the

handling fees deducted will go to the Histadrut, but to other workers' unions and organizations, like the National Federation of Israel Journalists.

The new fees are to be paid by employees in nonunion workplaces and employees on personal contracts, because they, too, benefit from the privileges and rights obtained by those working under collective labor agreements. *Michal Yudelman*

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Toxic shock warning

Recent incidents involving hazardous materials show that a disaster is waiting to happen, Liat Collins reports

A densely populated neighborhood in Ashkelon came perilously close to suffering the same devastation that killed 600 in an inferno of blazing oil in Egypt last month.

The Shimshon neighborhood is still not fully aware of the massive disaster that could have occurred last week, when lightning ignited a blaze atop a stationary 95,000-ton fuel tank.

Another disaster was narrowly averted a day later when Haifa children detected a fuel leak under their school.

One day, it is commonly believed, there will be a disaster here involving hazardous materials.

"We're sitting on a time bomb. It seems that, over the years, people who knew the extent of the problems concerning hazardous materials preferred to keep quiet and not spread panic," MK Shimon Shalom (Likud) this week told the Knesset energy subcommittee he chairs.

"The industrial companies know of the dangers of their safety systems and even have estimates of how many people would die if an accident were to occur. These things have also been told to the Interior Committee, but nobody is willing to take responsibility."

Among the problems the committee discussed were the following: they don't even know where the dangers exist; there is a lack of trained personnel and equipment to deal with emergencies; coordination between the numerous bodies dealing with the issue is poor; and there is a lack of supervision, monitoring and other preventive measures.

"The fact that a disaster hasn't happened yet is a miracle, but you can't rely on miracles forever," said Shalom, who called the meet-

ing about last week's incidents. The Ashkelon fire was extinguished by employees of the Eilat-Ashkelon Pipeline Company before there were any injuries or any damage occurred.

But the authorities are now focusing on the potential for devastation, noting that the fuel involved was the same as that which caused the blaze in Egypt.

The company is extrajurisdictional (as are the oil refineries in Haifa), which makes it a virtually autonomous body not bound by the laws that control the handling of hazardous materials.

The Environment Ministry is particularly concerned because the fire was not immediately reported to the local fire brigade, municipality, emergency forces or the ministry, as procedure demands.

There are some 80 to 100 incidents a year involving hazardous materials. Most are not considered newsworthy and are not publicized, said Dr. Israel Barzilai, head of the ministry's hazardous materials department. "Many involve the transport of materials and are considered road accidents. Many happen in workplaces where employees don't realize the danger." As he spoke, Barzilai was informed of a leak of ammonia at a Netivot ice-cream factory.

"This figure doesn't include incidents involving toxic waste. Apart from the Ramat Hovav site - which is itself now considered a hazard - garbage dumps throughout the country are filled with toxic hospital waste, for example; and thousands of tons of toxic waste and heavy metals are dumped into wadis and streams like the Kishon River. The waste poses a serious threat to water supplies.



Fire fighters struggle to keep this gas tanker from exploding on the heavily traveled Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway.

(Scout 81)

"Our generation might survive. But if we don't treat toxic waste," Barzilai warned, "it's not certain that our children's generation will survive."

Although the dangers can be found everywhere, Barzilai noted three areas where the problem is particularly acute: Haifa and the Haifa Bay area heads the list with some 2,000 factories dealing in petrochemicals and fuels. Thousands of tons of dangerous materials are processed, stored and transported close to residential areas. Next on the list is Ramat Hovav, about 15 km. from Beersheva, followed by Ashdod.

Barzilai said there are several more problematic sites, such as the Petah Tikva and Netanya industrial zones and fuel depots like Pi Giliot (near Herzliya) and Rishon LeZion.

"We have no means of treating incidents involving toxic materials," chief firefighter Shlomo Co-

hen told the Knesset Interior Committee recently.

"There is great danger in several populated areas. We need a significant breakthrough in all aspects of hazardous-materials control, particularly putting the emphasis on budget and equipment."

Firemen have admitted to feeling helpless where hazardous materials are concerned.

"We're scared. We feel naked in face of the threats facing us and the population at large. We ask ourselves what will happen if there's an incident we can't cope with because of a lack of equipment or personnel," said Gershon Sauberman, a spokesman for the firemen. "There is a real threat to all Haifa residents. It can't be brushed under the carpet."

One of the incidents last week drove the point home. A leak - in a pipeline transporting fuel under a Haifa neighborhood for the Israel Oil Refineries - was discovered

when Neveh Sha'anani schoolchildren complained of the smell and began vomiting, feeling dizzy and fainting.

"In Haifa Bay and the Carmel, many pipelines were built during the last 30 years. There are major questions about where they are; how deep they're buried, how well they're protected; whether they are corroded or not. Sometimes we discover pipes we didn't know about," said Prof. Noam Gavriely, chairman of the Haifa Towns Association for Environmental Protection.

"It's a matter of time before a tragedy occurs. The fact that, out of all the firefighters in the country, only one [in Haifa] has had serious professional training in the field of hazardous materials, says it all," said Knesset interior committee chairman Yossi Katz.

Part of the problem is the number of ministries involved in treating hazardous materials. Ten min-

istries deal with various aspects of hazardous-material regulation: Energy, Environment, Transport, Labor, Health, Agriculture, Interior, Police, Finance and Defense.

They largely operate separately. A truck or train carrying hazardous materials, for example, is entirely the responsibility of the Transport Ministry - until it reaches the workplace, where the materials become the responsibility of the Labor Ministry (except for the military industries, which are the responsibility of the Defense Ministry).

One incident illustrates the extent of the problem: a truck transporting hazardous materials for the Health Ministry's hazardous materials laboratory was involved in an accident in late October. An investigation showed that the truck driver, working for a subcontractor, had no training or knowledge of hazardous materials, no license to carry such mate-

rials, and no idea of what he was carrying.

Shortly after his fully laden truck pulled out of a gas station near the entrance to Jerusalem, barrels of toxic waste fell off. They had not even been tied down.

Fortunately, only three people were injured in the accident.

The investigation also noted that the containers held different types of materials which could have reacted chemically with each other and caused a disaster.

The emphasis must be moved to preventive measures, said the experts this week. "We must carry out an integrative risk survey and assess the risk thresholds of industries in densely populated areas," Gavriely said.

"I can't sleep at night," he admitted, "but I don't feel the situation is hopeless. We can't throw up our hands and say nothing can be done. It can. And we must, before a tragedy occurs."

Addition of Yi'ud faction may be balm for Rabin's ailments

NOW, is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by these sons of Yi'ud?

Prime Minister Rabin certainly thinks so.

This week he called the government's narrow coalition base "the source of all ills." Adding the Yi'ud faction to his cabinet should be chicken soup for Rabin's seasonal ailments.

The entry of Yi'ud into government was being made possible by a law easing its way through the Knesset, but the path of true love never runs smooth. "Love" was not what opposition members had in mind as they dubbed the law "prostitution" and accused Yi'ud of providing escort services for the cabinet.

But Rabin's mind is on a different type of fun and games - "frish-mish," for example, as he likes to call cabinet musical chairs. This is a much more sexy service Yi'ud will provide by joining the government - giving Rabin a perfect opportunity to rattle some ministerial cages.

It is no secret that Rabin is unimpressed by the performance of some of his ministers. But this displeasure is almost balanced by the prime minister's dislike of frish-mish.

When the director-general of his office, Shimon Sheves, was reported to be urging a reshuffle, drawing howls of protest from ministers and MKs alike. Rabin swiftly declared he had no intention of moving any minister from his seat.

This was accepted since it felt



Rabin: Unimpressed by ministers, unhappy with musical chairs.

in the cabinet that Rabin is not the type who fires ministers, or even shifts them around.

Enter Yi'ud and the easy way out. Give Yi'ud's Gonen Segev the Energy portfolio, currently part of Police Minister Moshe Shalom's domain. Shalom, cabinet sources say, will take this hard.

Even more devious whispers suggest that Rabin could nudge Segev to reject Energy and insist on another portfolio, Transport, for example, opening the way for a more thorough shakeup while allowing Rabin to say, "What could I do? My hands were tied."

Yi'ud joining the coalition could also ease Shas's way in, relieving Rabin of his burdensome dependence on the whim of every MK for a Knesset majority.



Ramon: Lost no time in eliminating the Histadrut's representatives abroad.

SHEVES, incidentally, would dearly love to be a minister, even in this term. Meanwhile, it seems this most political director-general has already ensured his place in a future coalition headed by Histadrut chairman Haim Ramon.

Ramon, Sheves and Shas's Aryeh Deri, who together hatched the scheme to conquer the Histadrut - with Rabin's blessing, many are now convinced - are now entering phase two of their grand plan; taking over the government, no less.

Sheves and Deri's positions in

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAEL TUDELMAN



Gonen Segev: Was putting him in charge of Energy the easy way out?

this grand scenario are still in the realms of speculation. However, it is clear who is foreign minister in Ramon's shadowy cabinet - debonair Jacques Neria, head of the Histadrut's foreign relations department.

Ramon has lost no time in eliminating the Histadrut's offices and representatives abroad.

Like a true foreign minister, Neria has been abroad several times since taking office a few months ago. He has also concentrated on forging ties with Palestinian trade union leaders, who are the political leaders of the autonomy.

RABIN AND Ramon are cooper-



Aryeh Deri: Entering phase two of the grand plan to take over the government?

ating in another major project. Both have been pushing a tad too eagerly for a "package deal" based on cutting the cost-of-living raise by 2 percent. The enthusiasm of the duo for the pact is all the more surprising when all economic predictions and all precedents indicate the result will be a rotten deal for working people.

The explanation? Simple - the state health insurance bill, which Ramon as health minister foisted on the government, the Histadrut and public, comes into effect on January 1.

Politicians and economists have "suddenly" woken up to the fact that wage-earners will be paying more and getting less. Members of



Police Minister Moshe Shalom may not be pleased with the new arrangements.

the Knesset Labor and Welfare Committee are warning - too late - of a "disastrous" new law.

Rabin and Ramon fear that the voters, justly furious at being duped, will wreak revenge next election day.

So, what can be done to divert attention from the new health tax, the expected new "organization tax" - new holes in our pockets?

How about proposing a package deal - in exchange for cutting the cost-of-living raise, the health tax would be reduced by a similar sum? This would leave only one irreversible factor - the cut in the cost-of-living raise. No one doubts the health tax will creep back to its natural level, while the workers will have lost forever their cost-of-living hikes.

Ramon, rehearsing his prime ministerial role in the Histadrut, is proving no different from those who reigned before him. While

ruthlessly firing hundreds of workers and cutting the wages of those surviving, he is surreptitiously raising pay and benefits - managers' insurance for example - for his close supporters.

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres has recently completed his autobiography which will be released simultaneously in English and Hebrew next April or May. The manuscript, written with the help of a ghost writer in English, has been translated, says Keter, chief editor Yon Feder, "with special adjustments for the Israeli public."

The British publisher is Weidenfeld & Nicolson. The book is due to be translated into three other languages early next year.

A FOREIGN gentleman in a suit, tie and penetrated the doomed Dava's editorial offices on Sheinkin Street last week.

He was shown around by union head journalist Efraim Davidi, who - in French - introduced him to senior journalists and editors.

Within minutes, the whole building was abuzz. Since Davidi is active in Dava's action committee - now negotiating with the Histadrut to buy the paper - there was no doubt in anyone's mind.

This was a French investor interested in buying Dava.

How great the disappointment when the visitor turned out to be "only" a Tunisian journalist, Ahmed Othmani, who is in charge of the French organization Reporters Sans Frontiers (journalists without frontiers).

Othmani was in Israel to interview Palestinian trade union leaders in Gaza.

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Media mea culpas and other unusual phenomena

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILAN

THREE weeks ago CBS News mustered enough courage to reprimand its biggest moneymaker, 60 Minutes star Mike Wallace, for surreptitiously taping an interview with a free-lance writer.

Howard Kurtz of the Washington Post reported the incident: "The writer Karon Haller had gone to Mr. Wallace's office to help him with a story she had covered about assisted suicide. As they talked, Mr. Wallace, who did not want to do an on-camera interview, was secretly recorded by tiny hidden cameras, one of which was secreted in the drapes...."

"Eric Ober, president of CBS News, said Wednesday after an inquiry by the Washington Post it was a violation of journalistic ethics. They used very, very poor judgment. Without any question it was wrong."

"Ms. Haller said Wednesday she had no idea Mr. Wallace was taping her. But, she added: 'I thought it was strange that he would have makeup on his hands and face and it was only 10:30 in the morning.'... She was reluctant to describe her feelings because 'I allowed myself to, I would be hysterical.'"

READER TEDDY Piatunovich saw a double-page advertisement

for the television station Asia Television Limited (ATV) in the Hong Kong South China Morning Post which featured a picture of Hitler. If Hitler had only advertised on ATV, it averred, he would have achieved his goal of world domination.

Swamped with protests, including one from Piatunovich, the Morning Post's editor-in-chief, David Armstrong, apologized. The ATV advertisement was disgusting and offensive to all victims of atrocities and those who care about them. It should not have run and it certainly won't be run again. The company which designed the ad, Euro-RSCG Ball Partnership, also ran a profuse apology. So did ATV.

A similar apology was published by Japan's nationally circulated Yomiuri newspaper, which advertised books that allege the world is secretly controlled by Jews. The books include *Rothschild vs. Rockefeller* by Nobura Fujii. It says the Rothschilds fabricated the 1989 Tiananmen massacre story (which Fujii says never occurred) to discourage Japanese investment in China.

As reader Harold Solomon in Tokyo writes, Fujii moved all the way from the extreme left to the extreme right (a very short trip). His first antisemitic book, *The In-*

formation Manipulation Traps in which America has Ensnared Japan, had four coauthors, two of them Jewish. Which proves that Jews control the world so cleverly that they even write books against the Jews' control of the world.

A far more modest claim - that a Jewish cabal controls Hollywood - was made by British journalist William Cash in the *Spectator* ("Eye on the Media," November 18). Assaulted from various directions, mostly Jewish, for publishing the article, the *Spectator's* editor, Dominic Lawson, who is Jewish, saw nothing wrong with the piece and refused to apologize. But several writers responded with effective broadsides.

Two stand out. Eric Breindel, editorial page editor of the *New York Post*, adroitly rose Cash to shreds. And, in a pleasant surprise, Christopher Reed in *The Guardian*, a paper notorious for its anti-Israel stance, annihilated the piece for all the right reasons. "The inaccuracies in his feature, the fallacy of the basic premise, and the sneering tone expose him as an anti-Semite," Reed wrote. Another pleasant surprise is

James Hill, editorial-page editor of the *Phoenix Gazette*. Unlike most American editors, he refuses to toe the politically correct line. In a recent editorial on the Nobel Peace Prize, he wrote, "Chairman Arafat's history hardly qualifies him for anything but the hangman's noose, would the world's governments treat him as the thug he is instead of as a salesman for the stateless Palestinians."

LATTER-DAY ANTI-ZIONISTS

The *Boston Globe's* Israel correspondent, Ethan Bronner, has written a remarkably balanced article about Israel's "new historians" - a euphemism for what used to be known as plain, ordinary anti-Zionists - in the paper's November 2 magazine section. Particularly gratifying is that Bronner, while scrupulously avoiding taking sides, makes clear how the majority of Israelis out of the Sheinkin loop feel.

"For most Israelis and Jews," he writes, "the work of the new historians is best summed up by Yosef Lapid, a conservative, populist columnist for the newspaper *Ma'ariv*. Writing in September,

Lapid said: 'A new historian is a man who tells our little hearts that Little Red Riding Hood, on her way to Grandmother's house, made a poop and it stinks.... It's true that during the War of Independence, and both before and after it, Jews did awful things, mainly because the conditions at the time forbade or seemed to forbid acting any other way. There were malicious acts, as in any war. But they did not reflect the reality. They were the poop at the side of the road to the establishment of the state. The new historians discovered the poop. That is their great contribution to the history of the land of Israel. They stir the poop, smell it, spread it, and then write doctorates about it, all in the name of refined truth.'

"The new historians lie not because there is no truth in what they reveal but because they present their findings in a distorted way. The basic truth that no new historian can overcome is that the Zionist movement was a humane and idealistic movement that with selfless determination looked for peaceful solutions.... And while playing in poop, the new histori-

ans forgot that it wasn't Grandma waiting for Little Red Riding Hood in the cabin in the forest. It was the wolf."

POST CHASERS

The *Wall Street Journal's* editorials are arguably the best anywhere, but the paper's news department sometimes mistakes trendy gossip mongering for investigative journalism.

An article on media mogul Conrad Black last month was what is commonly known as a hatchet job (although authors Lawrence Ingrassia and Suzanne McGee found it difficult to hide their grudging admiration for Black's superior intellect).

Black-bashing profiles seem incomplete without horror stories of policy changes he allegedly forces on his papers. Since it is virtually impossible to find such change in any other paper, *The Jerusalem Post* is usually cited. (That Black had nothing to do with the *Post's* change in editorial policy is conveniently overlooked.)

Making sure no facts get in the way, Ingrassia and McGee quote only one *Post* critic, Hersh Goodman, editor-in-chief of the *Jerusalem Report* magazine. "What used to be a great paper is now a Third-World rag," says Goodman, who left *The Jerusalem Post* in a snit,

lambasting its inadequacies and lack of integrity long before Black bought it, when it was still "great."

The richness, sophistication and sharpness of Goodman's wit were surpassed only by television apparition Alex Giladi, who lectured to a group of communications students at Bar-Ilan University recently. As reported last week in the local weekly *Tel Aviv*, Giladi unsimilingly introduced himself as "the god of television." Then responded to a question about *The Jerusalem Post* with: "Really, who reads *The Jerusalem Post*? 25 people, two dogs and a cat." It couldn't have been easy for television's god to admit that there are at least 28 breathing beings smarter than he is.

HAPPY DAYS

Those who find it difficult to believe that Mafai's happy days are here again should have watched Israel Television's *Mafai* on Tuesday. In an unprecedented move, King Hussein had hosted opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu in Amman. Channel 2 gave it proper play, somewhere in the middle of the news program. *Mafai* barely mentioned the visit, relegating it to an "additional item" spot at the program's very end, past the price of tomatoes.

Yasser is no Noah

VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

World War II too soon, burning the US for fighting in Vietnam, etc.

"Prophetic Judaism" and its offshoot, a distorted version of "the Jews are different" idea, have provided a handy cover for such Jewish chronic Israel bashers in the Diaspora, as Arthur Waskow, Michael Lerner and Thomas Friedman, among others.

We have them in this country, too. Perhaps the most notable of these, when he is here, is Abba Eban, a former minister of foreign affairs as well as education, and in recent years a high-priced disseminator throughout the world of his version of Jewish heritage and history.

Eban, not especially known as a practitioner of Just Plain Judaism, is in the habit of criticizing government policies and general attitudes he doesn't like as "incompatible with Prophetic Judaism and classical Zionism." The latter, as he sees it, includes as one of its cardinal tenets a "partition principle" which must not be touched even in the light of the history of Arab attempts on the life of the Jewish state and the lives of its citizens and its supporters abroad.

Often these quotes of the biblical Prophets show a lack of even an elementary understanding of what those Prophets say, let alone of the messages that its images are intended to convey.

One such malapropism comes from the above-mentioned veteran Israel-basher Thomas Friedman, *New York Times* correspondent, whose writing, despite (perhaps because of) inexactitudes in his reporting and the telling of his life's story, has won him two Pulitzer Prizes.

"Yasser Arafat is in trouble," Friedman wrote in *The New York Times Weekly Review* of last Sunday (inserted in Monday's *The Jerusalem Post*). "Yes, you've heard that jeremiad before. But where as in the past there was always someone to save the PLO boss, this time the only one who can

save Mr. Arafat is himself."

The trouble begins with Arafat's "style of administration." He "is not only a survivor like Noah, but he also seems to believe in Noah's theory of management: Have two of everything. He has two economic planning arms (at least two), two different police organizations, two different intelligence organizations and two private militias."

"A survivor like Noah"?! Noah survived because he was "a righteous man," chosen, with his wife and children, to continue the human race after the Deluge, and to organize the survival of all fauna.

Surely, righteousness and Divine election are not among the factors responsible for Arafat's survival as boss of a murder gang.

As for Noah's alleged binary theory of management: If Friedman had opened a Tanach, he'd have found that the analogy might offend poor, harassed Yasser. For it was only the impure animals that Noah saved in single pairs of each; he admitted the pure animals into the ark in seven pairs of each (Genesis 6:19-17:2).

THE TORAH tells us that God decided to bring the Deluge when "he saw that the world had become corrupt... filled with *hamas* (violence, robbery)."

Our world is only too familiar with *hamas*, both in its biblical form (it appears 60 times in the Tanach) and in the special form in which the Arab-Moslem international terror gang apply bears that word as its name. The meaning of the Arabic *hamas* is "zeal," and it is an acronym of the gang's full name, *Harakat al-Mukawama al-Islamiyyah*/Islamic Resistance Movement.

Prophet Isaiah promises that the day will come when "*hamas* shall no more be heard in your land."

May that day come soon, and also the day when Arafat's *Fatah* (meaning "victory") will meet the fate suggested by the true acronym of the name of his gang, *Harakat al-Tahrir al-Libani* (Movement for the Liberation of Palestine), meaning "sudden death." (With thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner of Jerusalem.)

SRULIK



Baseless hatred, the 'original sin'

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And Joseph fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his [Joseph's] neck." (Gen. 45:14)

ONE of the most moving passages in the Torah is the reunion between Joseph and Benjamin, as recorded in this week's portion of *Vayigash*. Other dramatic meetings are described in the Torah, but nothing compares in poignancy to the image of these two brothers weeping in each other's arms after having been separated for 22 years.

After a long chronicle of difficult brotherly relationships - Cain and Abel, Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Joseph and his elder brothers - we finally come across two brothers who truly love each other.

They were the only children of Jacob's beloved Rachel, which set them apart from their other siblings. When their mother died in childbirth, we can assume that Joseph drew Benjamin close to him, took him under his wing, protected him and shared with him precious memories of what the mother he never knew had been like.

During the long years of his Egyptian exile, whenever Joseph recalled his youth and the mother who had died so young, his thoughts turned to Benjamin. Benjamin came to represent for

Joseph an idyllic past, a period of comfort and security; it was natural that Joseph's emotional longings were directed more toward this brother than anyone else. Joseph may have longed for Benjamin even more than for his own father, whose favoritism he probably subconsciously blamed for the other brothers' enmity. Benjamin was the only brother totally uninvolved in the family tension and sibling rivalry - innocent, pure and beloved.

Why does the Torah record only the weeping of Joseph and Benjamin, each crying on the other's neck. Where is the joy, the elation, the celebration?

Rashi, in the tradition of "the experiences of the fathers shadow those of the children," explains the verse as relating to the future destructions of the two temples erected in the portion of Benjamin, and to the destruction of the sanctuary in Shiloh, which was in the portion of Joseph. Rashi stresses that Joseph's tears are for Benjamin's destruction, and Benjamin's, for Joseph's destruction.

Why should the tears of the two brothers at this moment be linked to such terrible events in the fu-

ture? To understand the significance of this, we have to look again at the Zohar's idea that, of the many sins in the Book of Genesis, two are major archetypes: the eating of fruit from the Tree of Knowledge (rebellion against God), and the selling of Joseph by his brothers (the sins of man against man).

Of the two, the Zohar considers the latter more severe. All tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people had their source in the selling of Joseph as a slave, the "genetic" foundation of baseless hatred between Jews.

The Talmud (*Gittin* 55b), in isolating the cause of the destruction of the Temple, reports an almost mundane event. A party was thrown by an unnamed man whose friend is Kamtza and whose enemy is Bar-Kamtza. Bar-Kamtza, who was mistakenly invited, shows up and is told to leave: he takes revenge by going to the Roman authorities, lying to implicate the Jews in crimes against the state.

Josephus writes that even as the Romans were destroying the Temple, Jews were still fighting among themselves. To this day, we find

the Jewish people hopelessly split into enemy camps politically and religiously, with one group cynically and sometimes even hatefully attacking the other.

The sin of baseless hatred, the crime of Joseph's brothers that can be called our "original sin." And on our Day of Atonement, we link the Temple's destruction and the tragedy of Jewish exile with the sin of the brothers' sale of Joseph in the moving "Eila Ezkera" prayer.

Now Rashi's interpretation assumes profound significance. In the midst of brotherly hatred, the love between Joseph and Benjamin stands out as a shining example of what can and must be. Rashi links their tears to the destruction of our sanctuaries, the result of jealousy and enmity between Jew and Jew.

And so they each weep for the tragedies that will befall their descendants. But although each brother will be blessed with a sanctuary on his allotted land, the brothers weep not for themselves, but for the other.

What can fix that sin - and by implication the sins resulting from baseless hatred between brothers throughout Jewish history - is nothing less than a love in which each brother is first and foremost concerned for the other, and not for himself.

Shabbat Shalom

Help senior citizens beat the cold, especially this winter

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EVERY January, I get scores of requests from social workers for help in providing senior citizens with heaters, blankets and other necessities to help them beat the cold.

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NIS 150 Benita and Ron Bauer, Ramat Aviv, Anon. Lilli Caro, Bat Yam, Anon., Kfar Sava.

NIS 133 Looking forward hopefully to the aliyah of our grandchildren, Tobias, Anallil, Jonathan and Joseph before next Hanukkah - Heinz and Gabriella Pollack, J'm.

NIS 125 In honor of Mandy Samulowitz - her loving husband, Nafali.

NIS 100 In memory of Hella Anon., J'm. In loving memory of my parents - Barbara Roche, Ashdod, in memory of Doron, Betty Regenspurg-Sarfati, Netanya. Avri Nurick, Kibbutz Ha'ar, Ruth Dancal, Givatayim. In honor of the wedding anniversary of Rose and Jacob Polak - Renee Vorhaus, J'm.

In honor of Leslie's 70th birthday, Yehuda and Hannah Stolman, J'm. Gerard Kreiberg, Herzliya Pituah. Boaz and Monica Menashe, Ra'anana. From five wonderful grandchildren - Geva.

NIS 90 Anon., J'm. Five times last in honor of my grandson Eric's bar mitzva, his sister, Elia and cousins, Omer, Shai and Shelli - Helene Levy, Haifa. In honor of my grandchildren, Galia, her husband and their little baby, Adit, Yoav and Dorit - D. Zilber, Rehovot.

NIS 75 Ellen Zwartz-Gorin, Bat Yam. In memory of Adi - A. and L. Marberger, in memory of Hella - A. and L. Marberger, J'm.

NIS 72 In honor of my beloved granddaugh-

ter Sivan's fourth Hanukkah birthday - Carol Schwartz, Tel Aviv.

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\$1,500 Theodore and Laura Moskowitz, San Jose, CA.

\$249 Stephen Hirsch, Kiryat Tivon.

\$150 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Schechter, J'm. (via PEF).

\$124 Third grade Religious School class of Congregation Or Ami, Lafayette Hill, PA (Sandra, Michelle, Max, Malory, Adam, F. Andrew, Sarah, Eric, Matthew, Adam M., Daniel, Amanda, Lindsay, Thomas, Adam W.).

\$100 Beth Tikva Tzedakah Fund, Rockville, MD. Marlene Fryer, Nashville, TN. Happy Hanukkah Mamon and Papou - Lene, Sean. In memory of the baby - Sheryl and David Rosenberg, Brooklyn, NY. In honor of my grandparents, Mildred and Samuel Levine - Rachel Levine, Secaucus, NJ.

\$90 In honor of our grandchildren, Ariel, Michal and Itamar Ben-Hur, Yakarab, Gabriella and Amir Rosen. Itzhak, Merav and Yarden Rotstein - Aya and Myer Rothstein, Tel Aviv.

\$80 Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Pomerantz, Baltimore, MD. (via PEF).

\$75 The children of Temple Emanuel-El Religious School, Englewood, NJ.

\$30 In honor of my grandsons, Adam, David and Jason Sheer - Lenore Goltz, Fall River, MA. In respectful memory of Nahshon Wachsmann - Leslie and Ruben Helfgot, Atlanta, GA. In honor of my three grandchildren, Gal, Adva and Geoffrey - Florence Yudin, Ellet.

\$50 Mr. and Mrs. Felix Levenbach, Tucson, AZ (via PEF). William and Sylvia Gersch, Scottsdale, AZ.

\$40 Louis and Blanche Carr, Houston, TX. In honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Rabbi and Mrs. Morrison David Blat.

\$36 In the name of our beloved David - Matthew and Doris Yanczower, Wynnewood, PA. In honor of our son Daniel's 13th birthday - Audrey and Wayne Kimm, Santa Barbara, CA.

\$35 Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Rouse, Seattle, WA (via PEF).

\$25 In honor of our granddaughter Mai's bat mitzva - Ben and Morris Cheslow, Cranbury, NJ. Max Grill, Brooklyn, NY. Leonard and Helen Friedman, Norristown, PA. In memory of our parents and granddaughter - Irvin and Pauline Kalmann, Newton Center, MA. Joseph Linzer, Hastings On Hudson, NY.

\$20 In memory of a beloved father and grandfather Rabbi Abraham Horvitz - Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Bernstein and family, Brockton, MA. Hana and Frances Gavriel, Fair Lawn, NJ. 5th and 6th grade students from the Congregation of Bet El, Norwalk, CT.

\$18 A happy Hanukkah to a child in Israel - Gayle, Irv and Joshua Ginsburg, Wilmington, CA. Linda Lord, Wilmette, IL. In honor of Adiel and Rafal - Steve Gordon, New York, NY. Dr. Bernard and Beatrice Kramer, Wallingford, CT. From the allowances of two little girls, Abigail Ertman and Boli Bina Lazar. In honor of our children Chava, Gavriel, Tziona, Ayelet and Uriel - Yosefa and Marc Krauss, Woodmere, NY.

\$10 Isaac and Ruth Samson, Netanya.

\$25 In memory of my dear sister, Golda - S. Greene, Netanya.

Sw.Kr.100 Birger and Annelise Schapira, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Donations

Progress

Totals

They prize the memory of deceased players

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North		East	
♠ 2	♥ 9	♠ AK9875	♥ 95
♦ QJ7	♣ Q10873	♦ KJ9	♣ 72
♠ 643	♥ K108	♠ QJ10	♥ A6432
♦ 54	♣ J9853	♦ A62	♣ A10

Opening lead: ♠3
The newest trend on the local bridge scene is for the spouse or family of a bridge player to donate prize money for a tournament in the deceased's memory.

The latest of these events - the Alsch Tournament in memory of Jacques Alsch - had 200 players, many of them top notch. It was held at the Beit America Bridge Club in Tel Aviv last month.

The single-session match-point event was won by Moshe Katz and Nissan Rand, who had just come off a victory in the world championship senior teams the previous month.

The winning pair received NIS 1,500. Second were Danny Moses and Delano Radu (NIS 1,000), with third place taken by Yossi Tzohar and Abner Pecker (NIS 500). Their scores were 64.97 percent, followed by 63.27% and 63.13%.

The deal in the diagram was played across the field and was successful for the winners, despite the fact that they went off in their game contract.

THIS ENIGMA is unique to duplicate bridge, where how much you score on a hand matters less than how your score compares with that of the other players sitting in your seats and holding the exact same cards.

At rubber bridge, bidding four hearts and going down one is a poor result. At duplicate, it is a poor result if other pairs in your direction achieved a plus score. If, however, most of the other pairs reached game and went off by two tricks, you would receive a great score for being down only one trick.

That was the case on this deal, where many North-Souths reached the wrong contract of three notrump, often doubled, after South started with a one notrump opening bid.

Despite holding a five-card heart suit,

many Souths will open one notrump to get across the general strength and shape of the hand, rather than start the auction with one heart. Another reason for opening one notrump is that notrump scores higher than a suit, and at match points that extra 10 points may be significant.

When South did open one notrump, most Norths took the direct route to three notrump, despite the singleton spade. Again, this is because of the prejudice against minor-suit contracts, where you would have to bid five of a minor to score the same game bonus that you might achieve in a three notrump.

After the first three calls, East felt frustrated in his inability to bid spades at a reasonable level, and quite a few Easts doubled three notrump, which expert partnerships use as Lightner, calling for partner to lead his weaker major.

Some people play that the double calls specifically for a spade lead. After a spade lead, East usually won the king and led a low one back. This wise move keeps a spade in the West hand and when West gains the lead with the king of hearts, he is able to lead his third spade. The defense scores one heart and five spade tricks for plus 500.

When three notrump was not doubled, many Wests led a club. Some declarers now made nine tricks by playing on the heart suit, but others went after diamonds. East was able to win and lead a low spade, again setting up six tricks for the defense.

At the winners' table, Katz decided to bid Stayman over one notrump, asking for a four-card major. He was unwilling to risk three notrump with his singleton spade. How right he was! East slipped in his spade suit at the two-level, but Rand was able to bid his heart suit and reach the superior contract of four hearts.

After the spade lead, East won the king and shifted to a trump. West won the heart king and continued hearts. Rand won in dummy, led a club to his ace and ruffed a spade. Then two top clubs were cashed, on which South's last spade was discarded.

The queen of diamonds was led, covered by East, and won in the South hand. The last trump was pulled and a diamond led toward dummy, but the diamonds were banded against declarer and he had to lose two tricks there for down one.

Immediately after the session, Rand said he'd made a subtle error in the play and could have actually made 10 tricks.

If he had pitched a diamond on the third club winner instead of a spade, he could have ruffed a club in hand, pulled the trump and played his last trump. At this point, he would have been holding the queen of spades and ace-doubleton of diamonds. East would have held the ace of spades and king-doubleton of diamonds. Now the lead of the spade queen would have employed East into leading away from his diamond king.



Sure you'll see pigeons in Tel Aviv, but there are other exotic birds. (Shaul)

A city for the birds

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

AN urban early bird can do some interesting bird watching - in Tel Aviv.

In the most congested part of the city, a block or so off one of the main streets, there is a house that is surrounded by other buildings on three sides. But at the back of a tiny courtyard, someone once planted a hedge that is an attractant for birds.

Now and then there is a robin (*Eritacus rubecula*), red breasted and so unafraid that one can stand a meter away without alarming it. This is one of the most charming of the European birds that come here in the winter, and in the early morning they are busy in every place where worms and insects may be found.

Instead of the relatively unimpressive privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), this hedge is thick and somewhat wild and contains bignonia, hibiscus, pink honeysuckle, plumbago and even a couple of oleanders.

The orange-tufted Palestinian sunbirds (*Nectarinia osea*) can be seen there avidly in pursuit of nectar from the bignonia and the hibiscus.

In fact, there are two distinctly recognizable pairs, one on the north side of the house and the other on the west, as if they had a territorial agreement. There are also many yellow-vented bulbuls (*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*) hopping about noisily in the hedge.

Of course the ubiquitous house spar-

rows, pigeons and doves are everywhere - even in the midst of the big, busy Carmel Market. They land wherever they see food, even almost under the feet of passersby. These birds are true commensals with the human community.

There is not much vacant land, but even in the city there is the occasional junky-looking empty lot. And there is more than a chance of seeing a hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), with its crown of golden feathers and bright pink legs.

Mammals other than domestic cats and dogs are rarer in the city, but even there one finds the occasional mongoose (*Herpestes ichneumon*). These rodent and snake destroyers are to be found almost any place where there is a vacant lot with scrub foliage or a declivity that is overgrown. Their principal foods are in abundance, and there are plenty of mice and rats.

There are also few areas where one won't find a hedgehog prowling about at night, but these animals are not so often seen unless one takes the trouble to look.

On the other hand, bats are common in Tel Aviv and can be seen flitting from tree to tree at night. Many are fruit bats (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) and are commonly found in the vicinity of chinarberry trees or other sources of fruits.

But there are also many pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus kuhlii*), little insectivorous bats.

While the clocks ticks

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

BEFORE the dawning of the age of the chess clock, some players played painfully slowly. "Sitzfleisch" is what Dr. Siebert Tarrasch called this "art" of outlasting one's opponent. The clock was a welcome development to most of the chess-playing world.

At first it was considered somewhat drastic to lose a game on time. In one tournament fines were imposed on players who exceeded the time limit. Once again Tarrasch was in the forefront of things: In the process of struggling to defend a particular game, he not only lost in the end but incurred a large financial penalty.

It gradually became accepted that exceeding the time limit should result in loss of the game.

Unfortunately, this can lead to cruel injustices as players lose games when in chess terms their opponents should resign. This has become even more prevalent in these days of half-hour chess and blitz finishes, in which a fixed amount of time is allotted for an unlimited number of moves.

Enter modern technology and that man Bobby Fischer. In his 1992 match with Boris Spassky, Fischer introduced a new digital clock and a new type of time limit. The main innovation was that players would be given more time with each move they made.

When used during the Lloyds Bank tournament in London this summer, the Fischer clock provided a great deal of confusion - due, I suspect, to the unfamiliarity of the dial. A larger than average number of games were lost on time, and the clock was generally unpopular. On this occasion, however, the clock was used with a traditional time setting of 40 moves in the first two hours, 30 in the next hour, and then 30 minutes for the remaining moves.

The real British debut for the Fischer clock came a couple of months later, at the first closed Grandmaster tournament ever held in Wales. This was the Owens Cornish International played in my base in Wrexham, North Wales.

The clock was set at 40 moves in the first 100 minutes, and 20 moves in the next 50 minutes, giving 30 minutes to each player at move 60. And this time the clock was used to its full potential in that each player was given an extra 30 seconds after each move.

With this setting the clock proved to be a great success; all the players expressed approval and not a single game was lost on time. There was no mad rush as moves 40 or 60 approached. The players could focus on the board rather than the clock.

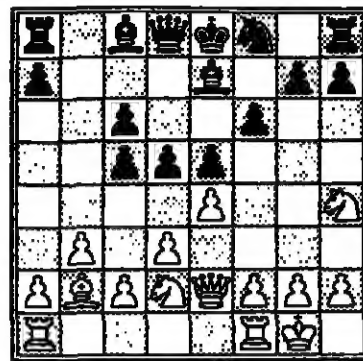
The tournament itself was a great personal success and in rating terms it was my best ever result. Final scores were: 1st Davies, 7½ points out of 9; 2nd Lars Karlsson (Sweden), 7; 3rd-4th Keith Arkell (England) and Michael Bezold (Germany), 6½; 5th Patrik Lyrberg (Sweden), 5½; 6th Heikki Westerinen (Finland), 4½; 7th Michael Hennigan (England), 3; 8th Russel Dive (New Zealand) and Francis Rayner (Wales), 2.

2: 10th Nasser Abbasi (US), 1½.
The best-game prize, decided by vote of the players, was won by the itinerant Finnish Grandmaster Westerinen, who for the last 30 years has toured Europe playing chess. His play exhibits a youthful verve which is sadly absent from the play of many of today's professionals.

Westerinen, H - Hennigan, M

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 d5 6.d3 Nf6 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.Qe2 Nd7 9.h3 f6 10.Bb2 e5 11.Nh4 Nf8?

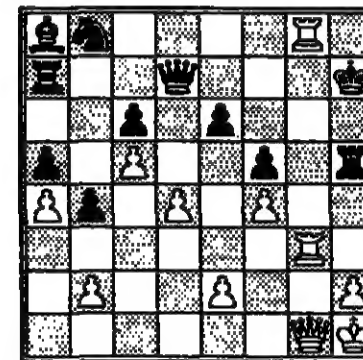
Black seems blithely unaware of the danger. This was his last chance to castle, and I would have preferred to do it on move 10, tempting White into a suicidal pawn snatch by 11.exd5 exd5 12.Qe6+ followed by 13.Qxc6.



12.exd5 cxd5 13.f4! exf4 14.Bxf6!!
The point is that 14...gxf6 is met by 15.Qh5+ Kd7 16.Qxd5+ followed by the capture of the rook on a8. With his position being torn apart at the seams, Hennigan is reduced to rather desperate measures.

14...Bg4 15.Qxe7+ Qxe7 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Rxf4 Be6 18.Nf5+ Bxf5 19.Rxf5 Ke6 20.Rg5 Ng6 21.Rel+ Kd6 22.c4 dxc4 23.Ne4+ Kc6 24.Rxc5+ Kb7 25.bxc4 Rad8 26.Nc3! Rxd3 27.Rb1+ Ka8 28.Nd5 a6 29.Rc6 Ra3 30.Ne7+ Ka7 31.Rcb6 1-0

This week's problem is from my last round game against Dive in which, having sacrificed two pieces, I now delivered the winning blow. White to play and win.



Solution: Without the rook on g3 White could simply deliver mate with Qg6. So to rid himself of this obstacle White plays 1.Rb8+! after which 1...Kxb8 2.Rg6+ Kb7 3.Qg6 is mate.

Ice plants yield seas of brilliant color

GARDENING

INEZ KLIMIST

IN our public plantings, we most often see roses decoratively covering the medians of highways and the edges of streets. But there is a thorn in that beautiful landscape.

With our concern for water conservation, these are not the best choices for large plantings. The reason for the displays is color, and there are better ways to achieve this end.

In California, for instance, they use ice plants. On the hottest, driest slopes and on the medians of highways, in places that receive no care and scarcely any water, there are seas of brilliant color.

These plants (delosperma) are covered with so many flowers all summer that you see almost no green. In the fall, when the foliage begins to show, it is first a bright emerald green. When the weather gets colder and frost hits in mountain areas, the foliage turns red and still looks very attractive. In spring the leaves turn green and begin to bloom again. It is a super-hardy perennial.

More and more gardeners have discovered the benefits of this sturdy plant, which will grow almost anywhere.

This versatile plant can serve as an edging, a container plant, a ground cover or as a bright splash of color in a rockery. You can even use it as a replacement for a lawn, although you wouldn't want to walk on it.

The varieties of bloom of the ice plant range from 2-cm. to 6-cm. flowers, with colors from pale yellow through dark purple. In Eilat, city gardeners have planters of bright-orange ice plants around the seaside arcades near the hotels.

Three or four cuttings buried in three centimeters of any kind of soil will spread over a large area in just one season. It is also available in seed form and germinates, grows and blooms very quickly.

This is a good time to plant the cuttings, since rain will aid the plant in putting out roots from the leaf terminals.

I would like to see more low-care perennials, which require little watering, in our city plantings. The rose bushes, though very lovely, require deep watering and lots of care, both of which are expensive for taxpayers.

Some of the beautiful succulents, sedums and decorative grasses, properly grouped, would be just as lovely and require much less upkeep.

QUESTIONS FROM READERS

L.F., of Jerusalem, would like to know how to handle the problems he has with an established lawn which has been trouble-free and beautiful for many years, but has suddenly developed big patches of brown, while the remaining grass has a sparse, thin, weak look to it.

We had an influx of tiny caterpillars at the end of the summer in Jerusalem which damaged many lawns. If this is the problem with your grass, you needn't worry. The roots have not been damaged. In the spring the grass will come up as before and be healthy again.

The only problem you may encounter is an excess of weeds due to the large exposed spaces of soil, which welcome weed seeds at this time of year. An application of weed killer in early spring (about February), followed by some slow-release fertilizer, grass seed and clover will ensure another year of beautiful grass.

I.L., of Jerusalem, would like to know the Hebrew name for bone meal. It is called *gardenit*, but it is not always available. Try the larger nursery-supply houses which sell to kibbutzim. Well-dried manure (from cows, sheep or chickens) will serve as well, and that is always available. Good compost is also helpful.

RIDE ON

Protecting your bicycle from the elements when storing it on your patio, balcony or in the yard has always been a problem. But now there's a solution! The Ride On Bicycle Cover, made of a waterproof synthetic fabric, protects your bike from the winter rains and summer dew as well as keeping it dust-free all year round. Simply slip the cover over your bike and seal it with the velcro closure. Fits all styles of adult bicycles. Color: White.

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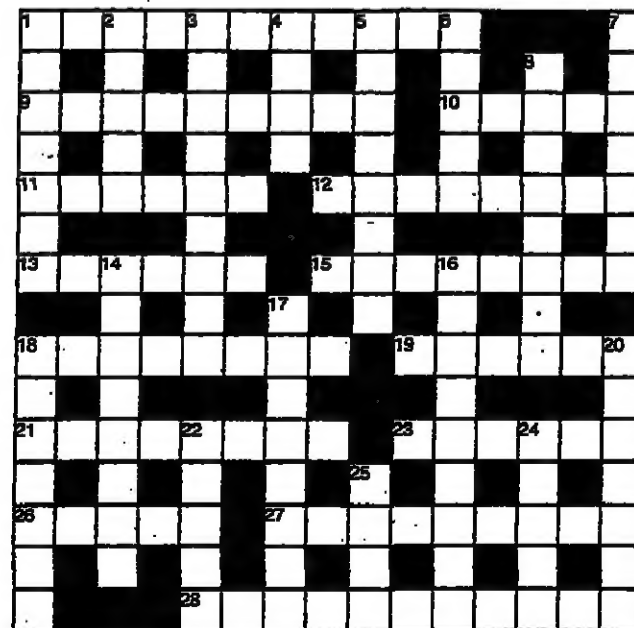
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

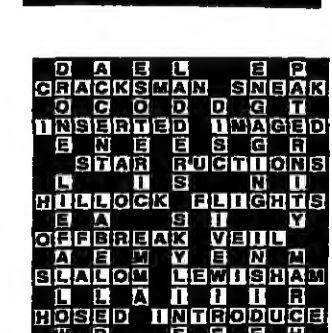
- 1 Persuade in what children know is true (4,7)
- 9 Herbaceous pantomime sweetheart (9)
- 10 Rise in a new outfit (3,2)
- 11 Sort of testotol... (6)
- 12 Especially when offered poor ale in the apartment! (4,4)
- 13 Shellfish sounds tough (6)
- 15 Last, despite everything (5,3)
- 18 Not always the final stroke (8)
- 19 Arrange a rest in the ship as a cure for it (6)
- 21 Bury conflict between conflicts (6)
- 23 Fear to make a mistake in the mountain (6)

DOWN

- 25 Inactive, after 18 across? (5)
- 27 Cutting off one's nose would really do it! (9)
- 28 Muslim Cross society for a street of blood (3,8)
- 1 First Scotsman? The original tar, perhaps (7)
- 2 Tuna fish mother who had a doorstep (5)
- 3 Explosive surprise (9)
- 4 Haunt for 20 down (4)
- 5 Socialist salute! (4,4)
- 6 Figure to cut on ice (5)
- 7 A soft sort of pearl outfit (7)
- 8 Guidance well below decks (8)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1. Elbow, 4. Green, 9. Conscience, 10. Plaid, 11. Sell, 12. Emotion, 13. Pac, 14. Sore, 16. Chief, 18. Ash, 20. Rescued, 21. Trip, 24. Large, 25. Epistle, 26. Create, 27. Epoch.
DOWN: 1. Enigma, 2. Banal, 3. Whip, 5. Reproach, 6. Examine, 7. Ending, 8. Lever, 13. Penitent, 15. Observe, 17. Frolic, 18. Adder, 19. Speech, 22. Ratio, 23. Pie.

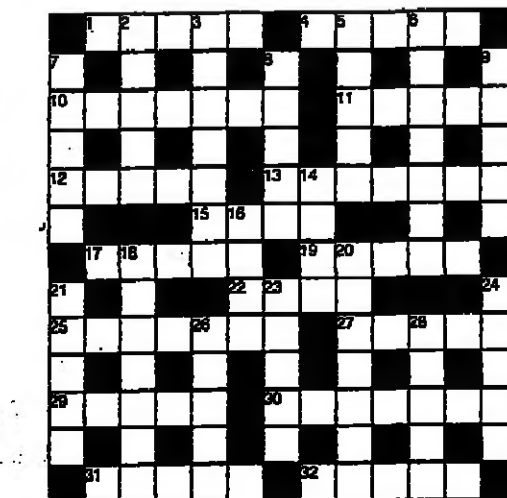
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Newspapers (5)
- 4 Go in (5)
- 10 Club doorman (7)
- 11 Alto violin (5)
- 12 Carrying chair (5)
- 13 Separation (7)
- 15 Antlered animal (4)
- 17 Smallest (5)
- 19 Subdued (5)
- 22 Tooth point (4)
- 25 Cargo (7)
- 27 Blunder (5)
- 29 Marsh grasses (5)
- 30 Battle refugees (7)
- 31 Bend (5)
- 32 Sandy common (5)

DOWN

- 2 Circular (5)
- 3 Duel aides (7)
- 5 At no time (5)
- 6 Stirring (7)
- 7 Chasm (5)
- 8 Vine fruit (5)
- 9 Scope (5)
- 14 Weapons (4)
- 16 Engrave (4)
- 18 Highest peak (7)
- 20 Promote (7)
- 21 Burning (5)
- 23 Speak (5)
- 24 Pivot (5)
- 26 Zest (5)
- 28 Flaw (5)



Integrity is its own reward

Kaare Kristiansen tells Batsheva Tsur why he left the committee that decided to give Arafat the Nobel peace prize

WHILE Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat receive the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo tomorrow night, former Nobel committee member Kaare Kristiansen will be in Jerusalem.

His very presence here is a predictable political statement by this mild-mannered Norwegian politician — long a vocal supporter of Israel — who resigned from the prize committee because it included Arafat among the winners.

"I wanted to evade all the reporters coming to Oslo for the ceremony, so I thought I'd come here instead," he says jocularly of his 15th visit to Israel.

Kristiansen's resignation from the five-member committee that chooses the winners of the \$950,000 peace prize came minutes after the announcement of the award.

The former leader of Norway's Christian People's Party was the fifth person to resign from the committee in its 93-year history. Kristiansen, who was elected to the committee for six years, served for only three.

"[My resignation] was the only argument left to me. Arafat's past is too tainted with violence, terrorism and bloodshed and his future too unpredictable to make him a Nobel Peace Prize winner," Kristiansen said at the time.

"It is a degradation [of the prize] to give it to someone so disqualified," he repeats in Jerusalem. "In my application to be [relieved] of my duty on the committee, I gave two reasons: respect for the peace prize and respect for my opinions.... But I would not go so far as to say that the Nobel Peace Prize has lost its value."

"Kristiansen says he would have preferred to wait a year to evaluate the results of the Oslo accords. "I felt no one in the Middle East should have received the prize this year. I have no opposition to Rabin and Peres receiving it, but it would have been impossible to give one side and not the other. One possibility was that we could have given it to the builders of peace behind the scenes."

"There was certainly some political element in the judgment of



Kaare Kristiansen says his resignation was "the only argument left to me" in opposing the award. (Brian Hender)

the majority," he says. "They voted for Arafat in the hope that he'll show better conduct in the future. They hoped it would strengthen the peace process." The developments in the Middle East since then, he says, have lent considerable weight to his argument that the committee should have waited.

"I am a realist," Kristiansen responds when asked if he is optimistic about a future peace settlement in the Middle East. "I hope that we will end up with a peace built on security for Israel. I can't determine at this point if that's obtainable through the Oslo accords. But I know Israel deserves security."

Kristiansen's resignation from the Nobel committee drew worldwide response. "I received more letters for resigning from that committee," he says, "than for all the work I have done by being on other committees."

The letters of support, he says, came not only from Israelis but also from North American Jews. "It frightened me that it was such a sensation. It shouldn't have been. I did it out of respect for my own integrity."

"IT CAME with my mother's milk," says the 74-year-old Kristiansen of his love for Israel. Born into a deeply religious Evangelical Lutheran family, Kristiansen grew up hearing his father read the Bible. Today he describes himself as "probably the person in Norway who has made the most speeches about Israel."

During World War II, he organized a successful attempt with his brother to break a news blackout imposed by the Germans.

The Kristiansens smuggled newspapers, hidden in hollowed logs, from Sweden, and copied

and distributed them. He was shocked by revelations of the extent of the Holocaust and later by the British blockade of ships carrying immigrants to Palestine.

After the war, he joined the Christian People's Party — which has generally allied itself, whether in the government or the opposition, with the Conservative and Center parties — and rose to become chairman.

He was elected to the Storting, where he founded "Parliamentarians for Israel." He later became parliamentary president. During the Sixties, he was a deputy minister; from 1983 to 1986 he was minister of oil and energy, a key portfolio in a country which derives much of its income from oil.

In 1974, Kristiansen paid his first visit here; after this and subsequent visits, he became an expert on the region.

Last month, the Norwegian people decided — by a very slim margin — against joining the European Union. Kristiansen believes the vote was "very shortsighted.... Right now we have extensive revenues from oil and gas.... But we have very little on-shore industry and could end up like a Third World country with very few jobs. The next generation will pay."

There is a lesson in this for the Middle East, he believes.

"The European states have learned the consequences of fighting two wars.... In Europe, there is no longer a fear of catastrophe because peoples are bound together by economics and culture. "Allow me to fantasize. In the Middle East, Israel has knowledge ... [and] the Arab countries have resources."

"A country's success can be of benefit to its neighbors as well. Share your knowledge. We can all profit by working together."

He sings for the pros and the cons

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

YEHORAM GAON will be providing part of the musical entertainment at this weekend's Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo. This week Gaon, the Jerusalem City Council member responsible for cultural affairs, received a citation at a gala dinner in support of the Old City of Jerusalem Reclamation Project Ateret Cohanim.

Fellow recipients and speakers at the event were explicit in their opposition to the Oslo accord, and called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to refuse the prize at a time when Arab terrorism is still rife.

Other Ateret Cohanim honorees included Oleg Schwartzberg, whose political caricatures in *The Jerusalem Post* are, according to emcee Mark Belsberg, "the one thing that Rabin and Arafat are afraid of."

All the other honorees, with the exception of Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Shmuel Meir and Dead Sea Works spokesman Zvi Fridman (who in 1967 was one of the paratroopers who helped to liberate the Old City), have long supported religious and educational organizations. They included Eli and Frieda Stern, Ruby and Phyllis Davidman, Herbie and Toby Wilfig, Michael and Ruth Matar, and Shimon and Rose Krupnick.

MIGDAL HA'EMEK Mayor and Likud MK Shaul Amor is the victim of yet another whispering campaign which casts doubt on his physical ability to continue in public office.

Amor, who had a leg amputated three years ago, is no stranger to pessimistic political prognoses related to his health. Current speculation about his very visible weight loss is, according to Amor, politically motivated.

With primaries in the offing, his track record should assure him a place on the next Knesset list, Amor told Israel Radio's Haim Necht, blaming political rivals for the rumors. He added that he felt extremely fit.

THE UNION of Local Authorities has created a new position — adviser on the status of women. ULA chairman and Karmiel Mayor Adi Eldar created the position in order to encourage more women to participate in local government.

First appointee is Bana Chernbroda, who serves in an identical capacity in the Haifa Municipality, where 15 years ago she initiated the country's first local-government committee on the status of women.

Chernbroda's ambition is to ensure that every municipality follows Haifa's example.

WILL THE skill of Assaf Harofeh cardiologist Professor Danny Gar affect relations between Russia and Israel? The answer is probably yes, after Russian Deputy Finance Minister Boris Orlov, 59, underwent open-heart surgery last week at Assaf Harofeh, on the advice of his Moscow physicians.



Yehoram Gaon: Scheduled to sing in Oslo, and awarded by anti-Osloists. (Ezra Kibitok)



Lea Rabin: Not only does she wear peace doves, but she gives them to others. (K. Benzion)



Hillary Clinton: She opened the gift box and found dove earrings and a pendant. (I. Harni)



And for Queen Noor of Jordan, there was peace as well as peace doves. (AFP)

THE SPEECH was reminiscent of the style of Israel's foreign minister, but the Arabic inflections and the accent belonged to Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, who this week reviewed the history and prospects of Middle East peace since the 1977 Sadat initiative.

Addressing the Israel Hotel Association's annual dinner for senior government secretaries, Bassiouny — who described himself as an "ambassador of peace" — urged his audience at the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza Hotel to imagine the region under an umbrella of peace.

"We have everything necessary to make this area a paradise," he said, emphasizing that "peace will not only bring absence of war, but limitless opportunities for growth and prosperity." He hoped that "next year, on this occasion, I will bring with me the Syrian ambassador and the Lebanese ambassador."

THE RAFFLE of a diamond-studded gold peace dove donated by the CDN diamond center was won by prime ministerial secretary Naomi Cohen, prompting IHA managing director Avi Rosenthal to declare that the draw had been kosher, without any pressure from the premier's office.

PEACE DOVES from another source — designed by Jerusalem jeweler Amitai Kay — are worn by both Lea Rabin and Reanna Weizman. His peace brooch has been selected as an official gift by the Prime Minister's Office for presentation to the wives of heads of state.

Kay's dove was also fashioned into a pendant and earrings presented by Lea Rabin to Jordan's Queen Noor and to Hillary Clinton.

The prime minister's wife, in preparation for her husband's upcoming visit to Japan, has commissioned Kay to make a different



Duda Topaz: Still at the top of TV ratings, despite changes in his production crew. (I. Sapir)

gift for Empress Michiko: a pendant whose centerpiece is an ancient bronze coin dating to the first century CE.

KNESSET SPEAKER Shevah Weiss used a hammer instead of a gavel for the inauguration of the new Knesset auditorium. The hammer, which knocked in the nails on the mezuza case, had trouble finding its mark, as the nails kept slipping. They were not the only loose screws in the Knesset.

IN ADDITION to his regular duties, Weiss is hosting his Polish counterpart, Josef Oleksy, whose personal guest he was in January when he visited the Sejm (parliament) during one of his many return trips to his native soil.

Aside from their Polish birth and identical parliamentary positions, both came to politics from the world of academia.

Oleksy, 49, the most important Polish official to visit since the May 1991 visit of President Lech Walesa, is one of the three most powerful people in the Polish gov-

ernment, and aspires to be the next president. Weiss, as speaker, is automatically acting president when President Ezer Weizman is abroad.

MEDIA PERSONNEL thought Yitzhak Mordechai would get some things off his chest when he was no longer head of Northern Command. But they found him as taciturn as ever, and unwilling to be drawn into political discussions, except on the issue of withdrawal from Lebanon. The continued presence of the IDF and the SLA is vital, according to Mordechai.

Mordechai, who almost ran for mayor of Jerusalem last year, did not rule out the possibility of embarking on a political career.

RELIGIOUS POLITICIANS, in particular the National Religious Party's Yigal Bibi, are seeking to curtail the period of tenure of the president of the Supreme Court.

Their argument is that if the president of the state and the chief rabbi can serve only two consecutive five-year terms, limitations should be placed on the Supreme Court president. Political pundits say the cause of the proposed amendment is Justice Aharon Barak, heir apparent to Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar.

Barak's liberal rulings often go against the grain of Jewish law. But even nonreligious legislators are disturbed by the possibility that, with Barak at the helm, the Supreme Court will snatch power from the Knesset.

IT'S JUST as well that the presidency of the state is limited to 10 years. Picture the confusion this week if Chaim Herzog were still in office to receive German President Roman Herzog. The Herzog & Herzog reports would have been a journalist's nightmare.

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM is much easier than fighting assimilation and intermarriage, said Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin in a B'nai B'rith World Center-sponsored debate on the future relationship between Israel and the Diaspora.

Beilin advocates replacing the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency on the grounds that they are antidemocratic, have outlived their usefulness and do not accurately reflect the Jewish world today.

He declared that anyone in the Diaspora who has been supporting Israel for 50 to 60 years and has not made aliyah, will not fulfill the Zionist dream.

Acting Jewish Agency and WZO chairman Yehiel Leket, who agreed that the two organizations have to be radically restructured, could see no reason for creating a new Israel-Diaspora organization on democratic principles outlined by Beilin. B'nai B'rith, termed by Leket "the largest, most democratic Jewish membership organization in the world," already exists, Leket noted, and is an affiliate of the WZO.

DESPITE MAJOR changes in his production team, Duda Topaz continues to top the TV ratings, averaging 33 percent in a Gallup survey of viewer preferences for the month of November. The reason may well be because there are no losers among the contestants who undertake his zany challenges — and everyone loves a winner.

TURKISH Ambassador Onur Gokce showed he's a good sport and can manage a pelvic fling with the best of them.

Saturday night he joined dozens of revelers on the dance floor at Istanbul's Movempick Hotel, following the Maccabi World-Union ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first Maccabi sports club in Turkey.

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